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STATISTICAL SURVEY

OF THE

COUNTY OF CLARE,

WITH

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT;

DRAWN UP FOR THE CONSIDERATION, AND BY DIRECTION

OF THE

DUBLIN SOCIETY,

BY HELY DUTTON,

MEMBER OF THE FARMING SOCIETY OF IRELAND, AND AUTHOR OF OBSERVATIONS ON CAPTAIN ARCHER'S STATISTICAL SURVEY OF THE COUNTY OF DUBLIN.

" Oh that mine adversary had written a book."—Job.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED BY GRAISBERRY AND CAMPBELL, 10, BACK-LANE,

PRINTERS TO THE DUBLIN SOCIETY.

1808.

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TO THE READER.

This REPORT is at present printed and circulated for the purpose merely of procuring further information, respecting the state and husbandry of this district, and of enabling every one interested in the welfare of this country to examine it fully, and contribute his mite to its improvement.

The Society do not deem themselves pledged to any opinion given by the Author of this Survey; and they desire, that nothing contained in it be considered as their sentiments; they have only published it, as the Report of the gentleman, whose name is affixed, and they publish it for the comments and observations of all persons, which they entreat to be given freely, and without reserve.

It is therefore requested, that the observations on reading this work may be returned to the Dublin Society, as soon as may be convenient, and which will meet with the fullest attention in a future edition.

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PREFACE.

HAD I not considered myself bound to fulfil my promise to the Dublin Society, this Survey of the County of Clare would never have been published; that ungracious, illiberal silence, with regard both to the hundreds of letters I wrote, and to the reiterated verbal applications I made, (and which to the disgrace of Ireland is complained of in almost every Survey, that has been published,) would otherwise have urged me, at an early period, to decline all further progress. Some, to whom I applied, (whose rank in life should have placed them above such gross ignorance,) asked me what a Survey was, what was it about, &c. and some very wittily wished to know, was it to take an account of all the pigs in

Ennis or Killaloe, or the number of turf-kishes in the streets of Ennis, with a multitude of other remarks equally sagacious and liberal. With the most sanguine hopes of success I wrote and applied to many of the clergy, who from their local knowledge, liberal education, habit of putting their thoughts on paper, and *great leisure*, were, I fondly imagined, perfectly competent to give me the fullest information. The only written answers I received are detailed in the work; I need not disgust the reader with a repetition. Had I the good fortune to have found the majority of the clergy as liberal as the Rev. Mr. Graham, curate of Kilrush, the Survey would make a very different appearance, and would be more free from those errors, which must, I deplore, be found in the work. Were I possessed of that useful confidence of the son of a celebrated agricultural author, who was in this county from England a few years since, I might possibly have gleaned more information; but, as I found at an early period, that his queries were usually ridiculed, and his manner of stopping a person, whilst at dinner, until he

he took his notes, not at all relished, and that a preconcerted plan had been laid by some *gentlemen* to humbug him, it became necessary to use some caution in taking notes; indeed on agricultural subjects very few notes would suffice, for they occupied the least of the conversation after dinner, and any questions to that effect were either evaded, or received so coolly that I generally desisted.

To simplify the business as much as possible, the queries are divided into fifty-two parts, and in such plain language, that the most ignorant farmer in the county could comprehend them. I was weak enough to imagine that, when I produced my commission from the Dublin Society, I would have been favoured with half an hour's conversation, whilst I took notes of their answers, but this I found very few inclined to do. To many eminent graziers I applied for information on the interesting subject of cattle, but I soon discovered I was not to expect much but praises of their own breed, accompanied with illiberal remarks (which they thought very witty) on the Farming Society of Ireland.

Ireland. They seemed to be totally ignorant of the distinctions between the different breeds of animals; no discrimination, no knowledge of the value of green food, &c. &c. in short they could listen to nothing, or talk of nothing but their own breed (certainly a very good one); size, size, size, was every thing, and an encrease of that seemed to be the only desideratum. I am perfectly convinced that, if a pair of long horns could be placed on the big head of a thick-limbed Holderness bull, he would be preferred to the Marquis of Sligo's Brown Jack.

To the few following gentlemen, who interested themselves, I feel every grateful sentiment; Sir Edward O'Brien, Boyle Vandeleur, Esq. Bindon Blood, Esq. Robert Crowe, Esq. of Nutfield, (not Mr. Crowe, agent to the Marquis of Thomond and the Earl of Egremont) Francis Owen, Esq. and Mr. Kenny of Newmarket. Mr. Crowe and Mr. Owen were so kind as to give me in writing much valuable information, and my readers have cause to join me in the regret, which I feel, that I had not the pleasure of knowing Mr. Crowe sooner. Several

veral other gentlemen I teazed into something like information, but as a horse-laugh frequently accompanied it, I considered it apocryphal. At a very early period Mr. Molony of Kiltannon, who formerly had undertaken the survey, promised to give me copious written answers to my queries, but after various promises I found it was *vox et praeterea nihil.* Such of the Roman Catholic clergy, as I applied to, I found even anxious to procure me every information, and I feel a singular gratification in acknowledging the urbanity, with which the Rev. Mr. Barret, titular Dean of Killaloe, conveyed much valuable information.

I have also great pleasure in stating the extreme readiness I found in the farmers and lower classes of society to give me in detail many things their landlords seemed to be totally ignorant of. I regret to have to remark, that with a few exceptions the gentlemen of this county, in common with too many of those of some other counties, neither know, nor seem to care much, how their cottier tenants live, so as they come to work, when they are wanted; the occupation of their other hours is never

never inquired after; I found the men of this class infinitely more intelligent than those in a higher sphere.

On perusing the suggestions for enquiry, published by the Dublin Society for the direction of those, who may undertake the Surveys of Ireland, it will be easily perceived, what a complicated and arduous task they have committed into their hands, and what an active co-operation of the inhabitants of the counties is necessary to enable them to convey such information, as will enable the Dublin Society to draw up *a general statistical report of Ireland.* One would scarcely think it possible, yet so it is, that any person could be weak enough to imagine, that mere curiosity could prompt a Society, that have for upwards of sixty years devoted their attention so very happily to the advancement of agriculture and other useful sciences, to institute this inquiry. When we advert to the many branches of science, that are embraced, including mineralogy, botany, political economy, that most difficult one agriculture, a knowledge of cattle, &c. &c. so far from expecting any thing like perfection, we should

should be surprized, if every Report was not much farther removed from it than they are, especially when it is known, that in almost every Survey, that has been published, complaints are made of withholding information, and of that most unpardonable, *ungentlemanlike* insult of neglecting to acknowledge letters; no rank in life warrants this meanness. Even in the last Survey, that has been published, that of the county of Kildare, though written by a gentleman, possessing from his high respectability of character and fortune, as well as from his being treasurer of the county, and a constant resident, every influence, that should entitle him to attention to his letters, yet what are his words in the preface? "He had hundreds of letters printed and circulated, stating "the desires of the Society, and requesting "communications on the subjects committed to "him; *he has not to acknowledge the smallest* "*information.*" After this I can scarcely have a right to complain of the gross neglect, with which my applications have been treated; I trust and hope I shall not have the same complaint to make of the gentlemen of the

county of Galway, amongst whom I expect a continuance of that politeness and intelligence, which I have formerly experienced; I have no fears on this head from the inhabitants of that county,

Many may deem some of my strictures too severe, especially those on road-jobbing, and on tithes and the clergy. The enormity of the first is so great, that I would ill deserve the confidence the Dublin Society have honoured me with, if I declined the task, and I hope it will be believed, when I profess it has been to me a most disagreeable one. If I have stated any thing erroneous on the other subjects, it must be imputed to that ignorance, in which the silence of the clergy has left me. From those few worthy and *truly reverend* clergymen of this county, whose good opinion is worth obtaining, I have no fears for any thing I have written, and the anger of those, who could be influenced by the veto of a layman, and who preach that christian charity, which they do not practise, I heartily despise. I never can be brought to think (as too many of *them* seem to do) that a monotonous,

tonous, cold-hearted sermon once a week is the *only duty* they have to perform, or that it will ever make a protestant divine beloved or respected. I trust those, to whom I am known, will exonerate me from that infidelity, which has been generally imputed to those, who have dared to meddle with the clergy, however profane. I hope it will be allowed, that a firm belief in the glorious truths of the gospel is not incompatible with a detestation of the vices of some of its professors.

It has been urged by more than one, that I have not made personal applications. It unfortunately often happened, that at a time I could have waited on many gentlemen they were far from home. Sometimes I have been informed, that they had a house-full of company, and in a county possessing only three or four tolerable inns, and in remote situations not any, visits without a previous intimation were very hazardous. From some of these very complainants I received no answer to my letters to say, when they would be at home; in fact from what I have experienced I can

consider these accusations in no other light than as an excuse for indolence.

Amongst many others I made a personal application to Mr. Young near Quin, explaining the nature of my pursuits (I was introduced to him *twice* before) and requesting information; his only answer, after hesitating some time and a vacant stare, was humph.! and he very politely stepped into his coach box, and drove his family home from the church of Quin, where I had the misfortune to disturb his reveries.

I have purposely avoided the description of gentlemen's seats; I certainly could not, like the Post-chaise companion, see beauties in every petty place, that the partiality of their proprietors prompted them to do; were I to describe the very few places, that are really pretty, I should throw so many into the back ground, that I thought it prudent to be silent. The riches of the county certainly have not been lavished on the ornament or improvement of demesnes; more has been done in the county of Galway in ten years than here for half a century.

century. I beg leave to advise gentlemen, before they begin to improve, to procure the very tasteful superintendance of Mr. Roach, and not pursue their own whims, which they dignify with the name of *taste*.

On the fruitful subjects of irrigation and draining I was obliged to be concise; their importance in this county, where they are scarcely known, is very great indeed; they would, if conducted with judgment and spirit, change the features of those dreary absentee tracts, that occupy so large a portion of the county, to smiling harvests and verdant fields.

Next to the improvement of the soil the mineral productions claim the marked attention of the proprietors; those of the first necessity have been discovered in great abundance, such as coal, iron, lead, manganese, limestone, &c. but the puny attempts, that have been formerly made by sinking a few feet, will never bring to light those treasures, that a bountiful providence has placed on the sea-shore; they must be confided to scientific hands, that will not be paralised by unsteadiness or parsimony in the employer.

The

The necessary limits to a work of this nature prevented me from saying more on the subject of planting; had I indulged my wishes on this favourite and (in this county) neglected topic, a volume much larger than the whole Survey would not contain my ideas, especially when I reflected on its great importance to a county so completely denuded as Clare.

It must be evident to the most superficial observer, that many other subjects, particularly those of green crops, ploughing, liming, improvement of waste lands, &c. &c. in all which this county is miserably deficient, could not consistently with propriety be more enlarged; for, notwithstanding what has been already written by English agriculturists, the subject is by no means exhausted.

A gentleman of this county formerly objected to my appointment to make the Survey, and called me the Arthur Young of Ireland. I feel myself so infinitely removed from any pretensions to the celebrity of that great and useful agriculturist, that, had it been intended as a compliment, I should have considered it too gross for acceptance; but, as it was intended

tended as a reproach, I feel proud in being joined with one, who has so ably detailed the abuses of middlemen, and their oppression of the lower classes of society; on these topics I claim kindred with Mr. Young, to whom I owe much for making me think on many points in agriculture, that would otherwise have escaped my attention, and, as Mr. Kirwan says, "to whose labours the world is more indebted for the diffusion of agricultural knowledge than to any writer, who has yet appeared."

It is extraordinary, how little interest the gentlemen of this county, and indeed of every other in Ireland, take in any publication intended to promote the improvement of their country. I do not think there are three houses in the county, that have any of the Statistical Reports; one would imagine, that even curiosity to see, what was doing in other counties, would prompt them to obtain them; indeed, except Taplin's Farriery, Glasse's Cookery, and Maw's Calendar, I scarcely ever saw a book but in the houses of the few, who have seen the world; the generality are as ignorant of the practices of the next county as they

are

are of those of Russia. With the greatest difficulty the author of a Survey will sell perhaps two or three hundred copies, whilst such ephemeral productions as Cotchecutchoo, the Metropolis, &c. shall run through several thousand copies and several editions; so much more profitable is it for an author to amuse than instruct. A dancing master of eminence will receive three or four guineas per day, payed with pleasure, whilst an improver of land shall with a *grudge* be paid half-a-guinea. I was advised to try the pulse of the county by receiving subscriptions in Ennis; the experiment was tried on a fair day, when all the men of any property were assembled, and though a gentleman universally known and respected was so kind as to make personal applications, and the subscription book remained open for upwards of three months, twenty-eight persons! subscribed their names, and sixteen paid their subscriptions.

SUGGESTIONS

SUGGESTIONS OF INQUIRY

FOR GENTLEMEN, WHO SHALL UNDERTAKE THE FORMING

OF

AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

Situation and extent,
Divisions,
Climate,
Soil and surface,
Minerals.

AGRICULTURE.

Mode of culture,
Extent of it, and of each species of grain sowed,
Course of crops,
Use of oxen—how harnessed,
Nature and use of implements of husbandry,
Markets for grain,
Use of green food in winter.

PASTURE.

Nature of it,
Breed of cattle—how far improved,

Breed of cattle—how far capable of further improvement,
Markets or fairs for them,
General prices,
Modes of feeding—how far housed in winter,
Natural grasses,
Artificial grasses,
Mode of hay-making,
Dairies—their produce,
Prices of hides, tallow, wool, and quantity sold.

FARMS.

Their size,
Farm houses and offices,
Mode of repairing them, whether by landlord or tenant,
Nature of tenures,
General state of leases,
———— of particular clauses therein,
Taxes or cesses paid by tenants,
Proportion of working horses or bullocks to the size of farms,
General size of fields, or enclosures,
Nature of fences,
Mode of hedge-rows, and keeping hedges,
Mode of draining,
Nature of manures.

GENERAL SUBJECTS.

Population,
Number and size of villages and towns,
Habitation,

Habitation, fuel, food, and cloathing of the lower rank—their general cost,

Prices of wages, labour, and provisions,

State of tithe, its general amount on each article—what articles are exempt, and what charged by modus,

Use of beer and spirits—whether either or which is increasing,

State of roads, bridges, &c.

—— of navigations and navigable rivers,

—— of fisheries,

—— of education, schools, and charitable institutions,

—— of absentee and resident proprietors,

—— of circulation of money or paper,

—— of farming or agricultural societies,

—— of manufactures, whether increasing,

—— of encouragement to them, and the peculiar aptness of the situation for their extension,

—— of mills of every kind,

—— of plantations and planting,

—— of the effects of the encouragement heretofore given to them by the Society, particularised in the list annexed,

—— of any improvements which may occur for further encouragement, and particularly for the preservation of the trees, when planted,

—— of nurseries within the county and extent of sales,

Price of timber, and state of it, in the county,

Quantity of bog and waste ground,

Possibility and means of improving it,

Obstacles to it, and best means of removing them,

Habits of industry, or want of industry, among the people,

The use of the English language, whether general, or how far increasing,

Account of towers, castles, monasteries, ancient buildings, or places remarkable for any historical event,

Churches—resident clergy, glebes and glebe houses,

Whether the county has been actually surveyed, when and whether the survey is published,

Weights and measures, liquid or dry—in what instances are weights assigned for measures—or *vice versâ*,

The weight or measure, by which grain, flour, potatoes, butter, &c. are sold.

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APPENDIX 1

STATISTICAL

STATISTICAL SURVEY

OF THE

COUNTY OF CLARE.

CHAPTER I.

SECT. 1. *Situation and Extent.*

THIS County was anciently called Thomond or Tuadmuin, that is North Munster. In the year 1565 it was made a county, and added to Connaught, but was restored to Munster in the year 1602. It was also called O'Brien's country, from the numbers and influence of that family, which still continue, Sir Edward O'Brien being one of the representatives in parliament. At Ennis the Munster circuit commences. This county is almost insulated, for the river Shannon bounds it on the east and south, the Atlantic ocean on the west,

stretching from Cape Lean or Loop-head to Black-head, and on the north by the bay of Galway; it extends about 33 miles from N. to S. and about 52 from E. to W.

Sect. 2. *Divisions.*

This county contains about 476200 acres, or 744 square miles, of which 220144 acres are deemed profitable and pay cess. Since the period when the Down survey was taken, much land, that was then deemed unprofitable, and consequently not chargeable with any cess, has been since reclaimed, and still pays none, by which means many farmers pay more than their proportion.

The baronies are Tullagh containing 57147 acres, —Bunratty 38357,—Inchiquin 29523,—Clounderalaw 24148,—Ibrickan 13473,—Moyferta 18782,—Islands 17311,—Corcomroe 16663,—Burrin 10040, —so that, if the Down survey was exact (which it probably was not,) 256056 acres either are waste or pay no cess.

Sect. 3. *Climate.*

The climate is in general remarkably healthful; the strong gales from the Atlantic, though very unfriendly to planting, in so much that trees upwards

wards of 50 miles from the sea have, if not sheltered, a lean to the east, yet seem to agree well with most constitutions.*

Though the air is usually moist near the sea, the neighbouring inhabitants seem to feel no kind of inconvenience. Were the magistrates to do their duty in suppressing private distilleries, which abound in the county, and the proprietors of land or their agents to encourage domestic and personal cleanliness, there would not be a more healthful country in the world: there would be no complaint of those low fevers, which run through whole parishes, and destroy many, and which, I am informed by Doctor Hynes, proceed chiefly from want of cleanliness.

When the proprietors of those extensive tracts of bog and mountain, which abound in the East and West part of the county, are sensible of their value, and when planting such parts, as are worth little for any other purpose, on an extensive scale takes place, the climate will be less damp and consequently much warmer.

* There are many instances of longevity; one Hagarty near Moy died lately at the age of 107, and preserved the use of his intellects to the last. A family of the name of Rumsey, at Kilrush, are remarkably long-lived—a few years since, a priest (Mr. M'Curtin) died at the age of 100; he never had the tooth-ach, and got a new tooth at 98, never lost a tooth but the one, that was replaced at this unusual age, and enjoyed good health to the last.

I have not been able to obtain any meteorological observations on the weather, pursued for a series of years, by which any material change might be ascertained, but it seems to be the opinion of the old people, that it has been more subject to Atlantic storms than formerly; this seems to be corroborated by finding the remains of trees of great length and thickness in situations, where it would be very difficult to make them grow at present, as they are generally thought to be Scotch fir, which is by no means that very hardy tree, that is imagined; I suspect very much they are pine-aster, which will stand as single trees, where no other kind in the same situation can exist. I have made many inquiries from those, who have raised timber from bogs, and have been informed, that they have often found cones *as large as their fists*; as it is well known, that the cones of Scotch fir are seldom above an inch long, and half as broad, we may fairly conclude they are either pine-astre or stone-pine. Some faint idea may be formed of the force, with which the waves of the sea are impelled by the western storms, when it is known, that cubes of limestone rock 10 or 12 feet in diameter are thrown up on ledges of rock several feet high near Doolen; and at the same place may be seen a barrier of water-worn stones, some of them many tons weight, thrown up above twenty

feet

feet high across a small bay, into which fishermen used to land from their small boats, and where their former quay surrounded with huts remains many yards from the sea; this has occurred in the memory of many living at present.

Where the coast is rocky, the sea is daily gaining on the land; but, where fine sand forms the barrier, the land is encreasing.* Frost or snow is seldom of any long continuance; when snow continues long, as it did this year, (1807) great losses are sustained on extensive sheep-walks, as few, if any, ever make any provision of hay, except for those sheep they intend to sell fat in the spring; many sheep were found in good health after lying upwards of twenty days under the snow.

There was a slight frost the 11th and 12th of September, 1807; the tops of the potatoes were a little injured, but slight early frosts are always a very fortunate circumstance; they not only help to dry the ground and ripen the potatoes by stopping vegetation, but likewise give a fillip to indolence, that otherwise would leave potatoes undug until Christmas. Where wheat follows potatoes, the advantage is very great.

Some

* This effect is produced in a very rapid degree at a small distance beyond the Pigeon-house, and on the North Bull near Dublin: in a few years they will be pastures, or at least rabbit-warrens, and, if a little pains were taken, this effect might be accelerated.

Some of the finest myrtles I have any where seen, are in the open ground at Ralahine and Bunratty; some are upwards of 18 feet high, and well furnished; they are both broad and narrow leaved.

SECT. 4. *Soil and Surface.*

THAT part of *Tullagh*, which joins the county of Galway, is mountainous and moory, in its present state of very little value, but might at a moderate expence be made very valuable by enclosing, draining, burning, and by lime, or marl, but chiefly by irrigation, which is, as far as I could learn, almost unknown in the barony.

Bunratty, formerly belonging to the family of Macnamara, and called Dangin-I-vigin, touches the county of Galway at Tubber, and running through the centre of the county, sweeps round the city of Limerick, and joins the river Shannon near the canal; a large proportion is rocky, but not unproductive, for it grazes large flocks of sheep, producing very luxuriant herbage amongst the rocks.

Inchiquin was formerly called Tullogh I'Dea, but in 1585 was granted by Queen Elizabeth to the Baron of Inchiquin, since which period it has been called Inchiquin. Tradition, which is often a lyar, says the barony takes its title from a small island in the lake of Inchiquin, that it anciently belonged to a family of the Quins or Cuinns, and

was

was called Inuish O Quin or Quin's island, and that O Quin was starved to death in it.

The eastern part is chiefly a flat, calcareous, rocky, and light soil; the west is generally moory hills, with some vallies of great fertility; the part, that joins the barony of Corcomroe, is highly improvable, as limestone is very convenient, but at present under a most wretched system of mismanagement. About Tully O'Dea there is some excellent tillage ground, and one little farmer sows velvet wheat. In this barony are situated the beautiful lakes of Inchiquin, and Tedano, and a chain of those of inferior note, that take a direction, some towards Kilmacduagh in the county of Galway, and others to Ennis; they have all subterraneous communications.

Clounderalaw joins the Shannon on the south, and the river Fergus on the east, and is very much encumbered with bog and moory mountain; but, as lime could be easily brought in, it is highly improvable.

Ibrickan stretches along the western coast, and includes Mutton-island. The southern part is almost all bog, and the northern a mixture of very improvable moory hills, and clay soil, but under a most miserable system of deterioration.

Moyferta (after refined to Moyerta) runs in a very acute angle to Loop-head, on which the light-house is situated,

situated, and is supplied with an ample share of bog and moory hills very improvable.

The western part of the barony of *Islands* is chiefly composed of low moory mountain, but towards the east, as it approaches the town of Ennis and the river Fergus, it improves greatly, and contains a share of those rich grazing grounds, called Corcass, and partakes of the same soil as the adjoining barony of Bunratty, which it embraces near Ennis.

Corcomroe, bounded on the west by the Atlantic ocean, is very much of the same quality as the adjoining baronies; it consists of a fertile clay on whinstone rock, called here cold stone, to distinguish it from lime-stone, which is called hot soil; it wants only draining, liming, and a proper course of cropping to make those lands, that now pay only a few shillings per acre, worth from two to three guineas; it is painful to see this so highly improvable barony under a system, that is neither profitable to landlord nor tenant, but alas! the greater part belongs to absentees.

Burrin signifies a distant part of a country; it was also formerly called *Hy Loch Lean*, or the district on the waters of the sea; it likewise received from Ptolomy the appellation of *Gangamii*, a corruption of the word *Cean-gan*, *Cean* a head or promontory, and *gan* external, the people of the external promontory, and of the same signification as *Burrin*.

This

This barony is extremely rocky, but produces a short sweet herbage fit for sheep of middling size and short clothing wool, of which immense numbers are annually reared, and usually sold at the fair of Ballinasloe in October, and from thence drove into Leinster to be fattened at three years old; a small part feeds store bullocks, and a much smaller fattens them for Limerick or Cork market.

A person unacquainted with the nature of the soil, and judging hastily from appearances, would think the rocky parts of this county worth very little, and could scarcely be persuaded, that many acres are let so high as 3*l.*—sometimes more; but still the greater part is let for low rents, often by the bulk, and not by the acre. The herbage, produced in those of the best quality, is of the most nutritive kind, and plentifully intermixed with yarrow, white clover, trefoil, birds'-foot trefoil, and fattens a few black cattle and immense flocks of sheep, the mutton of which is amongst the best in Ireland, and of which the citizens of Dublin can have little idea, especially since the introduction of Leicester sheep.

Those parts, that are cultivated, produce abundant crops of potatoes, oats, wheat, barley, flax, &c. The cultivation of wheat, since the establishment of Messrs. Burton and Fitzgerald's flour-mill at Clifden, has encreased considerably, and begins to improve greatly in the quality, as they very laudably

take every pains to disseminate a superior kind to that usually cultivated.

The soil of the mountainous part, comprehending all that, which, beginning at Doolan, takes a southern direction towards Loophead, and from thence along the Shannon to Kilrush, and still further in the same direction, and that of the mountains of Slieuboghta, which divide this county from Galway, is generally composed of moor or bog of different depths, from two inches to many feet, over a ferruginous or aluminous clay, or sandstone rock. In many situations lime could be procured on moderate terms, either by land, or by the Shannon; yet the farmers are either insensible of its value, or grudge the expence of carrying it, if the distance was only a mile. In some parts of the county of Wexford the farmers are so sensible of the improvements to be made by lime, that they frequently pay 3s. 6d. per ton, and draw it often twelve miles, sometimes much farther, and where turf to burn it is by no means in that plenty, or so convenient as here.

A considerable part of the surface is occupied by bogs, particularly in the baronies of Moyferta and Ibrickan, beginning near Kilrush, and running towards Dunbeg, a distance of nearly five miles, and almost as many broad; and a great part of the mountains, except the limestone ones of Burrin, are covered with the same valuable substance. It is a very

very peculiar circumstance, that those large tracts of rocky country, which must be always under sheep or cattle, and require but a very limited population, have but a scanty supply of this fuel. In many parts of the barony, especially on the coast, the inhabitants are obliged to procure it from the opposite shore of Cunnamara by boats.

For a considerable breadth on either side of the point of partition between the calcareous and schistose regions, the soils gradually melt into each other, and form some of the best ground in the county; for instance, Lemenagh, Shally, Applevale, Riverston, &c. &c.

A fine vein of ground runs from Killnoney to Tomgraney, about a mile in breadth; it lets for 3*l.* to three guineas per acre.

But the pride of the county are those rich low grounds running along the rivers Fergus and Shannon, called Corcass; they are of various breadths, indenting the land in a great variety of shapes. That part called Tradree, or Tradruihe, (Terre de roi,) the land of the king, (tradition says it was the private patrimony of Brian Boromhe), is proverbially rich; there are black and blue corcasses,* so

 called

* Mr. D'Esterre possesses 500 acres of blue corcass near Bunratty castle; it in general lets for seven guineas and a half per acre: six tons of hay per acre not reckoned extraordinary, but sometimes eight tons are produced, though mowed usually in the middle of July.

called from the nature of the substratum; the black is most esteemed for tillage, not retaining the wet so long as the blue, which consists of a tenacious clay, and retains water; this is reckoned best for meadow. Some of the corcasses do not retain the grass well in winter. These lands might be flooded from the Shannon and Fergus with great advantage; but, as the consent of so many would be necessary, those only, whose lands are contiguous to the rivers, could avail themselves of a practice, that has been followed with great success in England, and is called *silting* or *warping*. Many think the corcasses are of immense depth, but, in digging for the foundation of Bunratty bridge, limestone-gravel was found at about ten feet below the surface. The upland about Bunratty is of excellent quality, and beautifully shaped, of which Mr. Studdert has taken advantage, and is building a handsome house in a charming situation.

Mr. James Lysaght has favoured me with a statement of extraordinary fertility. In a turlogh near Kilfenora (I forget the name,) he fattened, in one year, on 48 acres, 42 large oxen, 44 sheep, and fed also 17 horses, and a great number of pigs; the following year he sold off it in fine condition (as his cattle always are) one hundred two-years old bullocks, and sixteen or seventeen horses.

The soil in the neighbourhood of Quin abbey

is

is a light limestone, and lets at from 30s. to two guineas per acre.

There is a large tract of fine tillage ground, and a charming country, where the parishes of Quin, Clonlea, and Kilmurry unite, and for many miles on every side.

Sect. 5. *Minerals.*

The annexed list, taken from the Dublin Society's museum, will shew that this country is by no means deficient in mineral productions. I discovered very rich lead ore on Mr. Scott's estate near Glendree, and on Mr. Colpoys's estate near Tullagh. I have seen a specimen of lead ore, belonging to a gentleman, who did not wish his name to be mentioned, which has been assayed in London, and contains in 36 cwt. $25\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. lead, $56\frac{1}{2}$ oz. silver, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. gold, and lies near the surface. Strong indications of iron are very frequent in many parts of the county, but, until coal is raised in sufficient quantity, it is of no value. Coal has been found in many places, but little or no exertions made to pursue it with any beneficial effect. Some years since two boats were freighted with coal raised near Inistymon; one was sent to Limerick, and the other to Galway; they were both condemned, as very bad coal, because one of the partners insisted on mixing the *coal-mut* along

along with the good coal; thus ignorance and avarice met their just reward, and, instead of a profitable undertaking, dissolved a partnership, that, if conducted with skill and honesty, would have enriched the country and themselves.

A few years since an attempt was made by Mr. Burton, near Clifden, aided by some English miners, to raise coal; after sinking upwards of fifty feet, a thin stratum of coal was discovered; but the shaft filled so fast with water, that the miners, from want of machinery to clear it, were obliged to desist until some future period. Detached limestone rocks of considerable magnitude frequently occur in the grit soils, and, though surrounded by bog, where their value would be inestimable, and could be obtained at a very moderate expence, they are seldom used. Large blocks of limestone have been lately discovered in Liscanor bay, seven or eight miles from the limestone country, and burned for lime; also in a bank, near the harbour of Liscanor, water-worn pebbles are found and burned.

The shore of Lough Graney produces a sand chiefly composed of crystals, which is used for making scythe boards, greatly superior to those brought from England; the country people come for it upwards of twenty miles. Sand of the same quality is also procured from Lough Coutra, the estate of Prendergast Smyth, Esq. in the same chain of mountains.

Very

Very fine flags are raised on the estate of Mr. Cooper, a few miles from Kilrush; they are easily quarried, and procured in masses of considerable dimensions. They are curiously connected by serpentine insertions between the layers. The foot-path of Miltown is beginning to be flagged with them, for which purpose they are well adapted, as well from their durability, as from the feet not slipping on them as on limestone, which makes a very dangerous pavement or flagging. Near Inniştymon thin flags are raised, which are used for many miles round for covering houses; they do not in general split into laminæ thin enough, therefore require strong timbers in the roof; they are sold for 6*s.* to 11*s.* per ton, laid down at your house, if within three or four miles distance. The Ballagh slates are preferred, as they are thinner than most others. A ton will slate about a square or 100 feet; and for laying them on the house, at 8*s.* 1½*d.* per square, slaters, if employed by the day, generally get 2*s.* 8½*d.* and diet. There is another sandstone quarry near Kilrush, one near Glenomera, and several of this kind of stone in the western part of the county. Broadford slates have long been celebrated, and are nearly equal to the best Welsh slates; they cost at the quarry 2*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* per ton, which will cover nearly three squares; a smaller kind are sold for 1*l.* 6*s.* and will cover about 1½ square.

As

As the communication by the Shannon is now opened to Dublin, little doubt can be entertained that they will supply that city to the exclusion of Welsh slates. Killaloe slates are reckoned rather better than Broadford: they sell for, whole and half ton, 2*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* per ton; quarter ton 5*s.* per hundred; small slates 13*s.* per thousand: the quarry-men have half the profit for raising them, the other half is received by the proprietor, Mr. Henry of Straffon. All the quarries seem to be badly worked; they do little more than skim the surface, though doubtless the hardest and best slates are at greater depths than they can attain without the assistance of machinery. This one of Killaloe is worked to a greater depth than the Broadford quarries.

Very fine black marble has been raised at Cragglath near Ennis; it takes a very high polish, and is, if well chosen, free from those large white spots, that disfigure some of the Kilkenny marble.

Copper pyrites occurs in several parts of Burrin; I have found it near Doolen; and I am informed that, some years since, Mr. Annesley, who possesses an estate in Glenvaan, barony of Burrin, attempted to raise copper ore; but, after bringing over miners from England at a considerable expence, whether from their unfavourable reports, or what other cause I know not, the further progress was abandoned.

The chain of calcareous hills, that run from near Corrofin,

Corrofin, present a very curious assemblage to the traveller's eye; they are generally insulated, flat on the summit, descending and encreasing in amphitheatrical ledges to the intervening vallies; some of them bear a very near resemblance to the view of the Herefordshire beacon, given as the frontispiece to the 1st vol. of Mr. King's Munimenta Antiqua.*

List of Minerals, discovered by Mr. Donald Stewart, and others, in the County of Clare, and of which specimens have been deposited in the Museum of the Dublin Society.

LEAD ORE.

1. Rich lead ore, from a remarkable large course of fine white calcareous crystal spar, forty yards wide, between the grey limestone rocks on the estate of Anthony Colpoys, Esq. near Tulla.

2. Lead ore, found on the lands of Class, the estate of Henry O'Brien, Esq. in hard grey rock, that strikes fire with steel.

3. Lead ore, found in grey limestone rock, in the deer-park of Lemenagh, the estate of Sir Edward O'Brien. It has also been discovered in various

* These hills are not well delineated in the map of the county, published by Mr. Pelham.

other parts of the same estate, sometimes coated with yellow crystal pyrites.

4. Lead ore, from Glenvaan, in the barony of Burrin, the estate of Mr. Annesley; also some specimens of green and blue lead ore: a large course runs into the great limestone mountains of Burrin.

5. Lead ore, from a regular vein on the summit of the limestone mountain, on the north-west side of the large deer-park of Lemenagh, the estate of Francis M'Namara, Esq.

6. Lead ore, from Glendree, the estate of John Scott, Esq. near Feacle.

IRON ORE.

7. Heavy blackish iron-stone, from Class, near Spansel hill; it strikes fire with steel.

8. Heavy blackish iron-stone, from a large course of spar and ochre, near the edge of the river Ardsallas, on the north side of the demesne of Sir Edward O'Brien.

9. Black heavy iron ore, from Goat-island, on the Malbay coast, the estate of Lord Milton.

10. Rich black ochrish iron ore, in a large flat on the top of the cliff opposite to Goat-island; near this is a regular stratum of coal-slate, six feet thick, the estate of Lord Milton.

11. Red

11. Red iron ore, from the same place, near Cross.

12. Very compact reddish iron ore, from the rubbish, where the late Sir Lucius O'Brien made a trial for coal, near the road between Corrofin and Ennis.

13. Heavy reddish iron ore, from the shore of Liscanor bay, near the place, in which coal has been found.

14. A ball of iron-stone, from near Pooldagh or the Bullock's pool, on the estate of Lord Milton, near Cross, on the Malbay coast.

MANGANESE.

15. From the spa-well of Fierd, on the sea-shore near Cross, the estate of Mr. Westby. Specimens of this were sent to Mr. Roe, at Ringsend, and others, who said it was more free from iron, and better than any they had seen before, and very fit for making the bleaching liquid. It is formed by the water on the rocks.

16. Heavy porous iron manganese, from Kilcredane point, near Carrigaholt castle, the estate of Lord Conyngham.

17. Manganese, from near Newhall, the estate of the late Charles Macdonnel, Esq.

18. Manganese, from a large body of it, on the

edge of a bog near Innistymon river, and not far from that village, the estate of Edward O'Brien, Esq.

COAL.

19. In several parts of Mount Callan, on the estates of the Earl of Egremont, Lord Conyngham, and the Bishop of Killaloe. Beds of iron-stone have been also found here.

30. Coal, from a stratum twelve inches thick, near Loughill ferry; on the opposite side of the Shannon, in the county of Limerick, the same stratum is only nine inches thick. Coal smut from the cliffs, on the west of Cloghansevan castle. In a high cliff near this a large seam appears like coal, the estate of Mr. Westby, near Cross.

21. Coal, from Liscanor bay, near Innistymon, in the face of the rock a little above high-water mark; the seam is three feet thick; the estate of Edward Fitzgerald, Esq.

22. Coal, on the shore of Malbay, within high-water mark, near Mutton island, the estate of Lord Conyngham.

23. Coal, from a thin seam, in a stream, that divides the estates of Lord Milton and the late Lord Clare, near the sea-shore, to the west of Carrigaholt

Carrigaholt castle, where also are strong indications of coal.

24. Coal smut, from the remarkable cliff, where water falls upon the rock, and has formed a great body of yellow ochre, near the mountain of Lemaduff or the Bullock's leap, the estate of Lord Milton.

25. Coal, from a stratum four inches thick, about midway between the base and summit of Mount Callan, the estate of Lord Conyngham.

26. Shining, blackish, ochrish coal slate, from a seam three feet thick, near the surface of the ground, on the sea-shore, about two miles east of Mutton island, the estate of George Stackpoole, Esq. of Edenvale.

27. Coal, from a seam of it at Fieragh or Foraty bay, the estate of William Stackpoole, Esq.

LIMESTONE.

It is mentioned only in those places, where its scarcity and great value as a manure make it worthy of notice.

28. Reddish limestone, in Glenomera, barony of Tulla, on the estates of Sir Hugh Massey and Mr. Arthur.

29. Glimmery black limestone, near Six-mile-bridge. Black limestone, with the impressions of shells

shells on it, in the bed of the river, that divides the counties of Clare and Galway, in Slieve-an-oir mountain.

30. Black limestone, from large stones found within the tide-water mark, on the shore of the river Shannon, about two miles north of Carrigaholt castle, the estate of the late Charles Macdonnel, Esq.

31. Slaty black limestone, from Slieve-an-oir river, near the bleach-green; it was traced from Lough Teorig, on the mountain, to Lough Graney, a distance of upwards of four miles.

Also valuable ochres, clays for potteries, antimony, and beautiful fluor spar, &c. have been discovered; besides copper ore in several places, one mine of which in Burrin was formerly worked.

Sect. 6. *Water.*

The river *Shannon*, after almost dividing Ireland from North to South, and dispensing its bounties to the adjoining counties of Roscommon, Leitrim, Longford, Westmeath, Galway, King's County, Kerry, Tipperary, and Limerick, enters the Atlantic ocean between this county and Kerry, where it is about five miles broad, and seems intended by Providence to carry the produce of Ireland, to supply the wants of our neighbours, through

through this channel. Of this the merchants of Limerick have availed themselves, and annually export immense quantities of corn and many other articles, besides the vast droves of fat cattle, with which they have long continued to feed the English navy.

If capital was not wanting, Kilrush would long since have had a very large share of these advantages; and, as Mr. Vandeleur must be sensible of the great benefit of a flourishing town to his adjoining estate, no doubt can be entertained, that liberal encouragement will be held out to improving tenants. When the time lost in working up and down the Shannon, (a distance of 120 miles,) and the expence of shipping and reshipping, (for it will scarcely be believed, that many articles are sent up the Shannon from Kilrush to Limerick, and there shipped,) are considered, it must point out Kilrush as a most favourable situation for trade, and must eventually contribute to the benefit of a part of the county, that is the least improved, and the most improvable in the county.

The numerous bays and creeks on both sides of this noble river render it perfectly safe in every wind; but, when the wind blows from certain points, the passage to and from Limerick is frequently tedious, and occupies more time than might be employed in loading a vessel at Kilrush,

in

in so much that I have been informed instances have occurred, when a vessel loading at Kilrush, whilst another was passing by for Limerick, has delivered her cargo in England, and returned, before the other vessel had cleared out of the Shannon.

From Blackhead to Loopbead, including the whole western boundary of the county, and measuring upwards of forty miles, there is no safe harbour for a vessel, except Liscanor bay, and this, for want of a pier extending to deep water, is useless for those of any burthen. A pier has been built, or rather jobbed, some years since; but, for the reason I have just mentioned, it is of use only to fishing vessels and smugglers. From want of a sufficient body of water to clear the harbour of the gravel thrown in by the tide, it is rendered still more useless. For preventing this accumulation of gravel, some progress was made in augmenting a small stream of water, which runs into the harbour, but, after jobbing a considerable sum of money to no purpose, it has been abandoned. Some gentlemen of spirit have now taken up the business; and, as there can be little doubt of the liberal contribution of the proprietor, Colonel Fitzgerald, in aid of a sum, which Parliament, when informed of the number of lives it will save, will certainly grant, this port may be made highly useful.

Dunbeg

Dunbeg bay, on account of rocks in the entrance, is unsafe for vessels of any size.

A pier at Glanina, in the barony of Burrin, would be of infinite use, as vessels, that cannot make the harbour of Galway, would here find safety, if they had a pier, and are at present in a most dangerous situation.

The river *Fergus*, the most considerable next to the Shannon, takes its rise in the barony of Corcomroe; and, after running through the lakes of Inchiquin, (containing three hundred acres,) Tedane, Dromore, Ballyally, and several others, and receiving the waters of several smaller streams, pursues its course through the town of Ennis, where it is augmented by the river Clareen, and, after forming a considerable and beautiful estuary, full of picturesque islands, unites with the Shannon at about ten miles distance. It is navigable for vessels of two hundred tons burden to Clare, a distance of about eight miles, and for small craft to Ennis. In spring tides the depth is about sixteen feet, and in neap tides about nine feet; at ebb a considerable rich muddy strand is left bare, many parts of which might be added to those rich meadows and grazing grounds called coreasses. It receives many mountain streams, and after heavy rains rises so considerably and rapidly, that large tracts of low meadows are frequently overflowed,

and immense quantities of hay destroyed, belonging to those indolent farmers, who, though they have been annually punished for this neglect, still persist, and who, I am confident, if a proposal was made to carry off the water, would grudge a small sum to effect it, and shift it on the shoulders of their neighbours.

Those pests of the country, eel-weirs, also contribute to throw back water on the land; an eel-weir at the bridge of Ardruan, near the old church of Kiltullogh, throws back water on many acres; the river Fergus, though here upwards of sixty feet broad, is narrowed by this petty weir *to eight feet.* It is extraordinary, that some of our enlightened legislators do not bring in a bill to abate this very great nuisance; except grist and tuck mills, there cannot be a greater; and I am perfectly convinced that, taken in the aggregate of Ireland, the proprietors of land, especially on rivers of moderate descent, are injured in their property to the annual amount of many millions of money. It is certainly in the power of grand juries to remove those, that have been lately erected. A very moderate sum would lower the obstructions on the river Fergus; but, however willing some individuals may be, it is almost impossible to procure a general consent of the proprietors, and it would be too expensive to obtain an act of Parliament

for

for this purpose; the expence would be more than would remove all the obstructions. The grand jury, if they have the power, ought to interfere, and present money for it; and, though their funds probably would not be able to meet the expenditure at once, it might be gradually effected: *the salaries, that are now paid to conservators, who are worse than useless, would soon accomplish this and many other useful plans.* It probably may be thought, that the individuals, who are injured, should expend the money for this purpose; so they certainly ought, and it is a strange neglect in our legislators, that there is not a bill brought in for the purpose of compelling a general drainage, without the expence of a separate act for every thing however trifling; yet, as the community are always benefited by the prosperity of individuals, it would be wise to effect this improvement and many others from the public purse, and would be infinitely more useful than many mountain jobs of roads, that end perhaps in the undertaker's bog.

Lough Terroig is situated on the top of the mountain of Slieuboghta, in the barony of Tullagh, and divides the county of Galway from this. A stream from it runs into the beautiful Lough Graney, or Lake of the Sun, and, after a serpentine course of four miles, collects the waters, that several rivulets

threw into *Annalow*, *Lough*, and *Lough O'Grady*, and at about two miles distance falls into the Shannon in the picturesque Skarriff bay.

The river *Ougarnee*, beginning near *Lough Breedy*, communicates its waters with *Lough Doon*, in the barony of Tullagh, after a short run meets that from *Lough Cloonlea* to the north of Woodfield, and, continuing its course for about three miles, forms a small lake near Mountcashel; from thence, after watering Six-mile-bridge, and turning several miles, it falls into the Shannon near Bunratty-castle, and opposite to the river Maige, in the county of Limerick, about seven miles from that city. The tide flows up to the old oil-mill at Six-mile-bridge.

Ardsallas river rises in the barony of Bunratty; in its course it receives a considerable addition from a river rising in the barony of Tullagh, and unites with the Fergus about six miles from the Shannon.*

The source of the *Blackwater* is likewise in the barony of Tullagh; it runs but a short distance, before it falls into the Shannon near Limerick.

Clareen river rises in the barony of Islands, and, after a very devious course of six or seven miles, joins the Fergus a little to the north of Ennis. Many hundred acres could be irrigated by this stream; it is abundant, and falls rapidly.

A con-

* Sir Edward O'Brien is irrigating a considerable tract of ground from this abundant stream.

A considerable stream rises in Mount Callan; its course is, upwards of sixteen miles, nearly parallel to the coast; it forms *Lough Dulogh*, receives several other smaller streams, and disembogues itself into the Atlantic at Dunbeg.

Several streams from the barony of Islands contribute to form a river, that falls into the Shannon at Clounderalaw bay.

Innistymon river forms for about two miles a boundary between the baronies of Ibrickan and Islands, and, running across the barony of Inchiquin, constitutes the division between that barony and Corcomroe, running for nearly sixteen miles, and, receiving the addition of several smaller streams, falls in its passage over a very large ledge of rocks at Innistymon, and thence into Liscanor bay, forming at high water a very dangerous passage for horses and carriages between Lehinch and Liscanor.

There are numberless small streams in almost every part of this county, except in the barony of Burrin, which is but scantily supplied. It is no easy matter to ascertain the names of many rivers, as they generally take their names from those of any town or remarkable place they pass through.

The river *Boagh* or *Boy* rises in the mountains, that divide Galway from this county, and also forms the division of these counties in its course to the Shannon, almost opposite to Holy-island.

The

The lakes are very numerous, amounting to upwards of one hundred with names; many are small, but some are large, as Lough Graney, Lough O'Grady, Lough Tedane, and Inchiquin.

Mineral waters are found in many places, they are chiefly chalybeate; that at *Lisdounvarna* has been long celebrated for its virtues, particularly in obstructions, and some find it beneficial after a winter's drinking of bad whiskey from private stills; it is strongly ferruginous, and of an astringent taste, and strong smell, but not fetid. This water would be much resorted to, if accommodations for drinkers could be had; but the health of those, who go there, is probably more injured by damp dirty lodgings in cabbins, than benefited by the use of the water.* This spa possesses an advantage not often met with at such places; it is contiguous to the sea, and gives an option of sea-bathing, as health or pleasure dictate, and the roads are in very tolerable repair.

At *Scool*, in the barony of Inchiquin, another chalybeate has been drank with great success by several afflicted with obstructions. Another chalybeate breaks up in the road near *Cloneen*, about a mile north-west of the castle of Lemenagh.

Kilkisshen spa has been handsomely enclosed, and has

* Leases of sufficient length for building, owing to a minority, cannot at present be obtained.

has effected many cures. There is another chalybeate spa at *Cassino*, near Miltown Malbay.

Many holy wells are to be seen in different parts of the county.* That near Toomgraney, in the barony of Tullagh, called *St. Coolen's*, is remarkable for the purity of its water, and for the remains of an oak tree, that measures upwards of sixteen feet in circumference four feet from the ground. At St. Giaaran's well, near Ennis, there are the remains of a very large ash tree. I do not recollect any thing remarkable of the other wells but the goodness of the water; the saints of ancient days were certainly good judges of water and land; indeed the county abounds with good springs, surely a much wholesomer beverage than the vile malt liquor usually brewed at the present day, even in London; the name should be changed, for it is a compound of every thing but malt and hops.

Turloghs, called in other places Loghans, are frequent in this county; they are accumulations of water, either forced under ground from a higher level, or surface-water from higher grounds, that have no outlet, and must remain until evaporated in summer. There is a very large one at Turloghmore, two near Kilfenora, and more in other places. Although the water remains on them usually for several months, yet,

* These wells are little regarded, but by the most ignorant people, and this Scythian custom will soon vanish.

yet, on the subsiding of it, fine grass springs up, and supports large herds of cattle and flocks of sheep. These turloghs abound also in the county of Galway, and could be drained in general with great ease, and at a moderate expence. I have offered to contract for the drainage of several; but there were such various interests to reconcile, and such an unaccountable indolence in the gentlemen concerned, that I have always retired with disgust.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

AGRICULTURE.

SECT. 1. *Mode of Culture.*

FORMERLY the preparation for wheat was always a fallow, except near the sea-coast, where the abundance of sea-weed or sea-sand rendered it unnecessary. In some places this wasteful practice still continues; but the great extension of the potatoe culture, and a happy rise in rents, have in some measure assisted the abolition. The example of some, but very few, spirited gentlemen, who cultivate potatoes, clover, vetches, rape, turnips, and other green crops for cattle, will doubtless have every good effect, in shewing the farmers the heavy losses they sustain by unproductive fallows. Very small farmers and cottiers scarcely ever fallow their ground; the usual preparation with them is potatoes manured for, and not unfrequently planted in drills; they are generally succeeded by oats, and too often by several crops of this grain, without the intervention

of any green ameliorating crop, until the ground will scarcely return the seed they had sowed. Frequently the course is; 1st, potatoes with manure, or the ground burned; 2d, wheat, sometimes sowed in winter, but oftener in spring; 3d, oats, and then begin the course with manure again, but too often they continue the cultivation of oats.

In many parts of the county, chiefly the eastern and western extremities, where the soil in its present unimproved state is not adapted to wheat, oats is a very general crop, and frequently after manured potatoes, and the cultivation of this grain is continued, until the ground is completely exhausted; in this state it remains for several years, producing little herbage, and of very bad quality, until it has produced a sufficient covering to enable them to burn it again, and the same wretched course is pursued, whilst the agent (perhaps some young lawyer or attorney, totally ignorant of country affairs)* permits his absentee landlord to suffer thus in his receipts; for, at the end of almost every lease, the ground comes into his hands in this impoverished state, and it is by no means uncommon to burn ground four times during a lease of thirty-one years.

Every

* Mr. M'Evoy, in his Survey of the County of Tyrone, seems to be of the same opinion: he says, p. 198, "Agents not acquainted with country business may be considered a great bar to improvement; the improvement of land depends very much on the activity and knowledge of agents."

Every cottier is perfectly sensible of the great value of manure, and great exertions are every where made to collect it, insomuch that the roads are frequently injured to a great extent: turf-mould spread about their doors, and every hole filled with it during winter, forms a very large share of their manure for potatoes; the usual mode of planting them is, with few exceptions, in beds of about six feet wide, with a trench two or three feet wide, according to the depth of soil; in very shallow soils they are often made much wider, in good soils not more than eighteen inches.

Sometimes moory or boggy ground is burned for this inestimable root, and generally two crops taken; they are almost always succeeded by oats, rape, or flax.

Sometimes barley suceeeds potatoes; it is used chiefly in the private stills, which abound in every part of the county, even under the very nose of the magistrates; and some people are impudent enough to say, that they are so used to the smell of putteen whiskey, they do not perceive the stills; and others are still more impudent, who say, that some magistrates keep stills in their concerns. After barley, oats are taken as long as the ground will produce any thing; it is then left to nature for several years, until she, kind nurse, produces as much herbage roots as will enable the repetition of this barbarous system

of tillage, especially if the lease is near its expiration. The value of potatoes is so universally known, that few farmers have less than from one to four acres of them, some ten or more. In some parts of the county the ground is manured, and formed into a ridge in the usual way, and the potatoes planted with a long dibble,* that a man thrusts into the ground with his foot, followed by a child or woman, who drops a potatoe into the hole; sometimes the potatoes are dropped at the usual distance on the surface, and put into the hole by the man, who dibbles. Frequently, after manuring the ridges, or the second year after burning, a man makes a deep cut with a spade, which he throws forward, at the same time making an open cut to receive the potatoe set, that he has ready in his hand, from a stock usually carried in an apron before him; on drawing out the spade, the cut closes on the set. After both of these methods, the potatoes are second-spitted or shovelled in the usual way; but they are erroneous practices, because the ground is seldom or ever stirred since the previous crop, and it would be less tedious to lay the potatoe-sets at once before planting; yet to a poor cottier it is convenient, for the operations of manuring and throwing up the ridges are performed at a season of more leisure, in winter or too early in spring to plant potatoes with

* This in some counties is called a stoeveen.

whh safety, and when his own or his landlord's hurry of business has not yet commenced. There are always abundant crops of potatoes after a dry spring, as the burning of land (on which nine-tenths of the potatoes of the county are planted) is facilitated, and seldom fails to produce a plentiful return. If a total abolition of this practice was to take place, as some people totally ignorant of rural economy seem to wish, a famine would be the consequence: when better practices amongst farmers are adopted, the production of manure by green crops will render this mode unnecessary. It must be gratifying to hear, that even cottiers are now eager to procure grass-seeds.

Lay ground is frequently skinned with a plough and four horses *walking abreast*, (a boy walking backwards, and striking the horses in the face to make them advance,) and burned in the summer or autumn; the ashes are always left in heaps, until the potatoe-digging is finished; about the beginning of December they are spread, and wheat sowed, if the weather is favourable, but frequently from wet weather the sowing is deferred until spring. Indeed the greater part of the wheat of the county is sowed in spring; this has been the custom time out of mind, and has caused no little merriment amongst the farmers, when they saw premiums offered by societies for *experiments* on the cultivation of spring wheat, and equally so on an author's gravely

gravely asserting, that from *his experiments he found it would answer*, and that he was the *first*, that had tried it: it shews how little one part of Ireland knows of the practices of the other; this knowledge, if no other good effect arose from the statistical surveys, would be sufficient to obviate those ignorant sneers, that indolent gentlemen are but too apt to indulge themselves in. It was the advice of the celebrated Bakewell, "to see what others were doing;" and, strange as it may sound, the gentlemen of this county would be much benefited by *staying less at home*. Frequently after a crop of wheat, and one or two of oats, the ground is fallowed, and after the last ploughing in October is again sowed with wheat, trenched in with spades and shovels, and then oats, as long as the ground will give any; after this it lies, as usual, useless for several years.

On the sea-shore great use is made of sea-weed, (algæ) of several species: two successive crops of potatoes are taken, and generally followed by wheat, oats, and barley, and the same course repeated: this has been the practice time immemorial. It very often happens, that a sufficient quantity of this manure is not thrown in previous to the planting season, sometimes from want of time, or the means of bringing it to their land; in this case they plant the potatoes at the usual season, and, according as the

the weed is thrown in by the tide, it is daily spread on the planted surface, and then covered by a second spit or shovelling, which keeps the weed moist, and causes it to rot. Experiments have been tried to ascertain, whether sea-weed, laid on fresh from the sea, was a better manure than that thrown into large heaps to rot before using; the result has been in favour of the fresh weed. If potatoes are planted early enough on this manure, they are dry and well tasted, but, if late, are apt to be wet and ill tasted. Sea-sand has been used in many places with good effect, particularly by Mr. Morony near Miltown, who spread a small quantity on ground of very inferior quality, which produced so great a crop of grass, as to set for meadow the following summer at seven guineas per acre, and continues to produce a most luxuriant growth of white clover and other valuable plants. It is generally allowed, that this permanent effect is always the consequence of sanding; but that, by sea-weed, does not last longer than two crops, and the soil acquires the appearance and tenacity of clay; but, as they have an abundant and never-failing supply of it, this effect is disregarded. When the two modes can be united, (which fortunately is generally the case) it is reckoned a very superior management.

Mr. Westby, who possesses a considerable tract in

in the western part of the county, with one or two other proprietors, allowed their tenants for a few years some small premium for sanding their ground; this had the best effects, as the quality of the crops was greatly improved, and the quantity much encreased; and the herbage was so much changed, that, when let out to grass, even after the most barbarous system of deterioration, the ground was covered with white clover and other valuable plants; and from land, that in its original state only starved a few miserable sheep, fat mutton has been since sold in Kilrush market, and large quantities of milk and butter. The premium for sanding has been discontinued for some years past, owing to some impositions practised by the tenants, claiming for more ground than they really manured.* The good effects, however, do and will for ever remain; and one would imagine, that so very evident an improvement required no other premium than the superior quality and products. The practice of sanding is chiefly confined to the parishes of Killard, Kilfieragh, Moyferta, and Kilballyhone. In the parish of Kilrush, where manure is easier to be had, and permission to burn the ground is not granted, they manure on the

* This, amongst many other instances, proves how necessary a resident, active, intelligent agent is to an absentee; had one been here, it is highly probable many hundred acres of Mr. Westby's wastes would have been ere now improved.

the lay, and plant, in the usual way, in ridges; the second year, potatoes without manure; the third year wheat is sowed, and the fourth and fifth years oats; the ground is either manured again, and the same course pursued, or else let out to grass in the usual way without hay-seeds.

A large portion of the tillage of the county is performed by the spade, especially that on the sides of mountains, or amongst rocks; the unevenness of the surface, and too often the pocket not answering for the expence of a plough and horses; and some of the best corn of the country is produced in this laborious and expensive manner.

It is almost impossible to ascertain the quantity of grain and potatoes produced on an acre; the quality of the soil, and superior or defective management, must always occasion such a great variety of produce. The average produce of potatoes is from twelve to fifteen barrels of one hundred and twenty-eight stone each; of wheat, from five to nine barrels of twenty stone each; of oats, from ten to sixteen barrels of fourteen stone each; of barley, from twelve to sixteen barrels of sixteen stone each. In Tradree the average of wheat is eight barrels; oats, sixteen to eighteen; and of potatoes, thirty-two barrels of sixty stone each to the acre.*

* When Mr. Young made his tour in 1779, the average of wheat was six barrels and an half; of oats, twelve barrels; of barley, twelve barrels;

Great improvements have lately been made, by the introduction of better kinds of grain than had been formerly in cultivation; American wheat, introduced by the Rev. Frederick Blood; white Essex, a most valuable kind, by Messrs. Burton and Fitzgerald, at Clifden; some new and valuable kinds by Sir Edward O'Brien; also potatoe, Poland, and New Holland oats, are now become common in the county.* Bindon Blood, Esq. introduced a kind from England much superior to any of those, which on his removal from Riverston he left to the person, to whom he set the place; on making enquiries, I found it was *purposely given to the fowl!* Near Ennis, white wheat is called big wheat, and red lammas in some places is called ball wheat; I found with one small farmer velvet wheat, which he sold at a high price. The quantity of grain sowed per acre varies greatly; in some places only ten stone of wheat are allowed, and twenty-eight stone of oats; in others, fifteen and twenty stone of wheat, fourteen stone of oats, and sixteen stone of barley; *less wheat is always sowed to the acre in spring than in winter.*

It

barrels; since that, to the great encrease in the cultivation of potatoes must be attributed the difference, and these have also encreased, for he states 1640 stone to be the average, whilst now it is 1920 stone.

* I weighed a bushel of Poland oats, it weighed 39½ lbs.; a bushel of very good common oats of the country, only 33½ lbs.; a small quantity of Mr. Blood's new oats equal to upwards of 44 lbs.

It is generally thought that in Tradree, and about Six-mile-bridge, an equal quantity of ground is occupied by grass and tillage. Near the town of Ennis great quantities of onions are raised, and sold at all the fairs and markets, and are often sent to Limerick and Galway, and sometimes to Dublin; there is usually sowed in this neighbourhood alone upwards of 20 cwt. of onion-seed, and frequently great impositions are practised by carriers and others, speculating on bad seed in Dublin.

The kinds of potatoes usually planted, are apples —blacks—cups—leather coats—grenadiers—lumpers —a few red-nose kidney by gentlemen—red apple—white apple—white eyes—turks—barber's wonders—a few ox noble—a few yams or bucks—English reds —coppers—pink eyes, &c.* There are more cups planted than of any other kind; they are reckoned not only more productive, but vastly more nutritive, being more difficult of digestion, and, as the country people say, "they stay longer in the belly."

To shew how far the best of our crops are behind what have been produced in ground in a very high degree of cultivation, the following statement is given from the best authority:

* In the year 1672 potatoes seldom lasted longer than from August to May. Since that period, kinds have been obtained from seed, that not only ripen earlier, but keep good for upwards of twelve months.

Barrels.

Young's Eastern Tour, vol. 1. p. 416...Oats per Ir. acre 29 5/14
——— Annals of Agr. vol. 11. p. 159...Do. 29 1/2
——— Do. ..... vol. 5. p. 240...Do. 30 9/14
——— Eastern Tour, vol. 1. p. 401...Barley 25 11/16
——— Do. ..... vol. 3. p. 19...Do. 28 5/16
——— Annals of Ag. vol. 2. p. 79...Do. 29
——— Do. ..... vol. 2. p. 243...Wheat 18 2/3
——— Do. ..... vol. 12. p. 45...Do. 19 14/16
——— Do. ..... vol. 2. p. 93...Do.....21 1/10

I am perfectly convinced many will say this is *book farming*, but such are not worth notice. If they wish for information from one in the county of Clare, let them ask Mr. Singleton, what his, or his father's crops on the corcasses have been; forty barrels (of sixteen stone each) of bere to the acre; thirty barrels (of twenty stone each) of beans per acre, &c.

Sect. 2. *Course of Crops.*

This, although the most material part of agriculture, is in general the least understood; one, in which the greatest abuses prevail, and which all proprietors of land are deeply interested to effect a change into a better mode, without which no permanent improvement can ever be expected. We may continue to import Scotch swing, and English wheel-ploughs, and other implements of utility or whim, but, unless we import along with them the best practices of each country, and steadily pursue them,

them, in opposition to the *old school* stewards, it will only serve to bring them into disrepute with those, who are but too ready to catch at any opportunity to decry practices they do not understand. Sir Edward O'Brien has brought over a Scotch steward, to whom he pays sixty guineas per annum and his diet, and who has made a rapid change for the better in the farming of Dromoland: now if he only makes the ground produce half a barrel per acre more than formerly was done, this alone would make an addition of at least sixty guineas on a tillage farm of such extent (one hundred and thirty acres); but this is a very trifling part of the advantages to be derived from the skill and activity of such a man;* the value of his example, to so numerous a tenantry as Sir Edward possesses, is above all calculation. *This is one of the happy effects of a resident and intelligent landlord.* At Dromoland corn is not stacked in the field; it is carried home from the stook, ricked, and immediately thatched, which saves much corn and labour.

It is very much the custom in this county, as well as in Galway, to allow stewards and gardeners to become small farmers and jobbers in cattle, &c. by

* The steward of the old school has little less, computing, with his wages, the value of cows grass, potatoe ground, house, turf, and a number of etceteras, which the indolence of his employer permitted him to take; but the losses by the idleness of the workmen under him, from their considering him of the same rank as themselves, leave all calculation behind.

by which their employers' business is always neglected, and frequently themselves injured; they are almost always in debt to their masters.

It is no uncommon thing to hear gentlemen, after having been in England for a few months, descant with rapture on the vast superiority of the agriculture of that country, and, by way of contrast, *patriotically* compare them with the worst of ours. This may in some measure be accounted for from their associating with those English gentlemen, who have made this most difficult science their particular study, and by their fashionable lounges to Woburn abbey, Holkam, and those other seats, where improved practices are conducted in a manner and on a scale, that very few of our travelling agriculturists are willing to try; and, if they did make a beginning, I fear it is the character of too many of our gentlemen to grow tired, or grudge the necessary expence to bring things to bear. Had they made excursions into some of the remote counties of England, they would have perceived practices to the full as absurd as our very worst; they would have seen four or more horses or oxen in a plough, with two drivers; they would also have seen repeated corn crops taken, without an intervening green one; lands undrained, full of rushes and weeds, &c. &c.

That the *improved* practices of the sister country are superior to any in the world, will, I imagine, be

be readily conceded; but, ceteris paribus, the English are not *universally* so very far before us, as their improvements in other branches of science would lead us to imagine.

If the wretched course of cropping pursued in this county, that I have before mentioned, was only that of small farmers or cottiers, ignorance of better practices might be pleaded in extenuation; but when we see them obstinately maintained by those, who, from their education and fortune, should be better informed, no animadversion, however severe, ought to be withheld. What improvements can be expected from tenants, when landlords are guilty of those very blameable practices? In the course of my professional visits I have frequently expostulated with small farmers (great ones I always found too conceited of their own old ideas to listen with even patience to any change) on the ultimate ruin they would bring on their families by persevering in such a system of extreme deterioration, and at the same time endeavoured to impress them with the superior *immediate* (without that it was useless to speak to a poor man) and future profit of alternate green and white crops; the answer universally was, "What will you have a poor man do? Surely if our practices were bad, my Lord A. or Sir B. or Mr. C. would not pursue them." Until landed proprietors see with their own eyes, or procure those, from whom the

the mist of prejudice has been dispelled, to conduct their business, this must ever remain a reproach and a loss to them and their tenantry. The ignorance, and consequent obstinacy of stewards of *the old school*, has tended more to prevent improvement in Ireland, than all other causes united; those, that I have had opportunities of seeing in this county, (with few exceptions) are ignorant in every respect of the management of a demesne or farm, and are at best bad overseers of labourers; and those, to whom many trust their property in buying and selling cattle, and who are all attached *to stout bone, and a thick plump hock*, or, according to an old Westmeath saying, beef to the heels, know no more of the value of a beast, than to ask, when selling, a great deal more than the value, and, when buying, to offer a great deal less. For the instruction of those few farmers, who are willing, but have not had any opportunity of seeing better practices, or, from the very high price of modern agricultural publications, have not found it convenient to procure those, where such practices are detailed, I shall take the liberty of suggesting a course of crops and management, that will not only give a superior present profit, but, after any length of time, will leave the ground in still better heart, than when they began. The ruinous course I have before mentioned, is either to burn or manure,

for,

for, 1st, potatoes; 2d, potatoes; sometimes 3d, potatoes; 4th, wheat; and then follow repeated crops of oats, until the soil is completely exhausted; it remains then for several years almost totally unproductive, not even producing weeds but of the humblest growth. If, instead of this scourging course, which may be compared to a spendthrift living on the principal of his money, the following is adopted on light soils, (and of this description a great part of the county consists,) I am very confident it will never be abandoned; 1st, potatoes, either burned for, or manured; 2d, wheat or barley; 3d, clover and ray-grass, sowed on the ground, occupied by the last crop, in the first moist weather in April or May, to remain for two years, and to be cut for soiling in the house; then the ground to be broken up in October, and remain until April, when it should be well harrowed, and stretched into furrows, thirty inches or three feet asunder, and manured from the dung produced by the cattle, that had been fed on the clover in summer. The potatoes now, and for the future, should be planted in drills, and landed by the plough, and not in the expensive method of many in this county, who land their drills with spades and shovels; after this the same course is to be repeated. In place of wheat or barley, oats may be substituted, as the straw is much more valuable for feeding store cattle

in winter. The farmer may rest assured that, in point of *immediate* profit alone, he will find a material difference, and the ground, instead of being greatly impoverished, will be vastly improved, both in fertility and freedom from weeds.

The introduction of vetches, rape, turnips, &c. &c. must be gradually introduced, when a taste for improvement begins to dawn in the mind, when the cash he has made by the former course *begins to burn his pocket*, and when the value of the clover gives him a favourable idea of the great value of green crops, and will convince him how erroneous the present notion of farmers is, *that nothing but corn could pay rent*; until that period arises, (and I trust it is not far off,) it would only perplex and frighten those, for whose benefit this course is suggested. Whilst the small farmer is pursuing this profitable course, it is hoped those of more and better information, and larger income, will lead the way in the introduction and cultivation, on steady principles, of the best kind of green crops, in the most improved manner, and consumed in the house by stock; then, and not before, we may expect such good practices will be generally adopted. Irish farmers are not that race of obstinate fools they are sometimes called by absentees, or their interested or ignorant agents or stewards; they are no more wedded to the customs of their forefathers,

forefathers, than the English, or those of any other country of the same rank. I have ever found them ready to listen, and willing to be instructed, if gentle methods are used; but the language of petulant reproach, so often used to them, is by no means calculated to make proselytes: how quietly an English farmer would bear such language from a stranger riding along the road, as, "Damn you, you stupid rascal, why don't you use two horses to your plough?" He certainly would return the compliment, and perhaps might make some additions to it.

The practice of ploughing with only two horses or oxen (still a driver) has been adopted within a few years by many, who formerly used never less than four, sometimes six; example here, as in all other cases, is worth volumes of precept. Fallowing is still practised, but not to the extent it formerly was; the great encrease in the cultivation of potatoes has lessened this odious custom; the rise in rents too has undoubtedly contributed to this desirable abolition; low rents have always tended to make farmers indolent. It is to be hoped, that farmers will at length become sensible of the loss they sustain by this triennial tax, more ruinous in its consequences than those, about which there is always so much croaking; but this is a voluntary one, therefore more palatable. Two successive

crops of wheat are sometimes taken, but not often. According to the slovenly mode of fallowing in this county, and, I may add, the greater part of Ireland, it has not the intended effect of destroying weeds, but with respect to perennial weeds, that propagate by the root, a quite contrary one, as it only divides the roots and encreases them; for few ever think of picking them off, and annual and biennial weeds are permitted to ripen their seeds, before the ground is ploughed; the proper period for this operation is, when the young weeds are an inch or two high, when they are either turned into the ground and become a trifling manure, or are exposed to the sun and air, and destroyed. It is by no means uncommon in this county, as well as in the county of Dublin, to see thistles, docks, rag-weed, and other pernicious sorts in full seed, before they are turned in by the plough, or rather left with their heads sticking up between the furrows, where they come to maturity.

The extraordinary exertions made by small farmers and cottiers to procure manure (in many cases to the very great injury of the roads,) would lead one to think, that very little attention, aided by example from landlords, would easily induce them to abandon this practice: for, to accomplish the accumulation of this sine qua non of agriculture, cows and other beasts are generally kept in the house

house in winter, and fed with potatoes, usually boiled and mixed with bran, if the price is reasonable. Of the value of potatoes for this purpose they are so perfectly sensible, that it would be an easy matter to induce them to cultivate a small portion of ground with rape, vetches, clover, turnips, or any of those other valuable plants, which the improvements in modern husbandry have so happily introduced into field culture. If we advert to the endless variety of soils, in which the potatoe thrives, to the universal knowledge of the mode of its cultivation, to its ameliorating properties, especially if planted in drills, to its undisputed fattening quality, to the superiority it possesses over every other vegetable production for cattle, of keeping good for upwards of twelve months, to the ease and perfect safety, with which it is kept in large quantities, and to many other advantages, which must occur to every agriculturist, it deserves the most serious attention of those enlightened farmers, to ascertain, by steady and well conducted experiments, *whether it should not in a great measure supersede the use of many others*, especially since the introduction of spring wheat.

Beans were formerly sowed to a great extent in the rich lands near the river Shannon and Fergus, but this culture has greatly declined. Mr. O'Brien of Cratilow had a very fine crop of beans in 1807, and the same year, after pulling the beans, mowed a very

a very abundant crop of hay, but it must be remembered it was on corcass land: it is the opinion of a gentleman perfectly conversant in the nature of corcass lands, that, if beans and oats were sowed alternately, they would produce abundant crops for ever. When these lands are first embanked, they are of such fertility, that little else than straw is produced. Captain Palliser near Bunratty reclaimed a good deal of this land; the first year barley, all straw; then seven successive crops of potatoes without manure; and in 1807 I saw the oats, that followed these; it was very long in the straw, and well headed; he intends to follow this with several crops of the same grain, and is certain of each crop encreasing in productiveness.

I have heard it asserted that, when the ground, from repeated oat crops, becomes full of couch-grass and other weeds, and somewhat impoverished, a crop of beans is taken, which not only cleans the ground, but restores its usual fertility, and they commence again with exhausting crops of oats. A very common course on corcass ground is; 1st, potatoes, without manure; 2d, wheat; 3d, wheat; 4th, oats, with clover and hay-seeds; 5th, very fine meadow; it may be easily judged, what ground it is, that could produce such meadow after such a scourging rotation.

SECT. 3. *Use of Oxen, and how harnessed.*

OXEN are not much used in husbandry; they are thought not to step quick enough, especially to meet the hurry of spring work; I am convinced this partly proceeds from not selecting them; large and strong-boned oxen are usually sought after for this purpose, without once considering, that heavy beasts of every kind are unfit for work, that requires dispatch; if, on the contrary, middle-sized oxen (and whose activity of step was previously ascertained) were selected, this objection would have little weight. This difference of step seems to be wholly disregarded by farmers, and, when young oxen are to be broke into the draft, the selection is usually committed to a bigoted ignorant ploughman, who generally chooses the largest, because he thinks strength the only thing necessary; another thing materially injures the step of oxen, the laziness of both ploughman and driver.

A strong corroboration of what is before advanced, occurred at the ploughing match of the Farming Society of Ireland, at Huntstown, in March 1805; the Rev. Mr. Symes of Ballyarthur, in the county of Wicklow, obtained the premium and cup for the best ploughing from several competitors; it was performed by two small spayed heifers, who beat

beat several pair of very fine horses in quickness of step, and, contrary to the general idea, that oxen, if quick steppers, are apt to be blown or lose their wind, these were as little affected at the conclusion as the best horses in the field. Another instance of their equality with horses occurred at the ploughing match at Mr. Shaw's at Terrenure; two beasts did their work equal to the best pair of horses in the field. Sometimes oxen, and horses or mules, are united in a plough; but of all the preposterous customs, which time and ignorance have sanctioned, this seems to be the greatest; frequently a large sluggish ox is coupled to a young spirited quick-stepped horse or mule; at first the horse exhausts his strength, but at length, finding his advantage in becoming as lazy as the ox, he ever after retains the slow step, as may be seen in every part of Ireland, where the loss, by the disgusting snail's pace of both ploughman and horses, is a very heavy drawback on the profits of farming, and is the cause of great injury in spring to those horses, who are beat into a quickness of step they have not been used to, and are frequently killed by their cruel masters.

The question so often and so long before the public, whether the use of horses or oxen is more economical for agricultural work, remains still undecided. The advocates for horses contend, that, though

though they cost more to purchase, require better keeping, eat more than oxen, and are of infinitely less value, if injured, or when past their labour, yet the superior agility of their motions, enabling them to perform a greater quantity of work, more than counterbalances the low price, cheaper keeping, and superior value of the ox when past his labour. The comparison has probably never been fairly made; it has been almost always between large sluggish oxen, ill fed, and middle-sized quick-stepped horses, fed with oats twice or three times a day. What farmer ever thought, when he went to a fair to buy a team of oxen, of making them step out before him? He only looks to those, who are likely to grow to a large size, and who have plenty of bone in their legs, without once considering whether they move fast or slow; on the contrary, if he wishes to purchase horses, they are made to go through all their movements, and rejected if their step is sluggish; no wonder, therefore, that oxen are more slow in their motions; but put a pair of those lubberly, heavy-legged, black horses, that were lately most injudiciously attempted to be introduced from Leicestershire, by the side of Mr. Symes's heifers for a day's ploughing against time, and a more forcible light will be thrown on the subject, than by any thing I could say. The proper feeding of working oxen is generally most shamefully neglected, and falls

most deservedly on the hard-hearted niggard his owner: if they get hay, they are generally thought to be uncommonly well fed; no wonder, therefore, that they are slow in their movements. What sort of step, and for what continuance, would horses have, if fed in spring with hay alone? I have seen, at a very celebrated seat near Dublin, oxen fattening for the Farming Society's shew, pampered with every vegetable delicacy modern agriculture could produce; within a few yards stood a team of miserable creatures, nothing but skin and bone; they frequently lay down whilst at work in the plough; not a potatoe, cabbage, or carrot was thrown to these poor animals, nothing but indifferent hay, the refuse of the fattening cattle; the steward, an Irish Englishman, "know'd all the English practices, aye that "he did, know'd oxen never would stand it, not "they, and he told master so, that he did, but master "would have his way, and now he seed the conse-"quence." The consequence of this ignorance and prejudice was, that, instead of turning them out when the spring work was finished in May, in good store order, which they would have been if well fed, besides doing twice the quantity of work, they were obliged to be kept over another year to fatten, before they were fit for Dublin market; and, as the land was worth at least six pounds per acre, they cost upwards of twenty pounds each to make them fat, and this without any green winter feeding.

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To make the comparison fairly, the feeding should be alike; if they get Swedish turnip, potatoes, or bruised furze, it must not be understood to mean, that they will be able to perform hard spring work without a portion of corn, but they ought certainly to make a considerable part of their food. Mr. Young, in his most excellent Farmer's Kalendar, p. 263, says, "Swedish turnip is, next to carrots, the very best food, that can be given to horses."

Oxen are not so liable to accidents as horses, nor to be ridden by lazy or vicious servants; where one beast only is kept, a horse will be always found most useful, but, where many are necessary, some of each sort will probably be found most economical. Michael Blood, Esq. when living at Roxton, formerly tried oxen, but imagined they were constantly lame from gravel getting between their claws. William Burton, Esq. of Clifden, has used oxen in all kinds of work, and found them to stand well on their legs, and always in good order.

The Earl of Egremont, who uses oxen entirely, allows his *English tenants* three per cent. of their annual rent, if they conform to his example. How praise-worthy would some premiums for the improvement of the agriculture of his numerous tenantry *in this county be?* Surely they have a right to expect some encouragement, to compensate them for his total absence; it is certain there are no tenants

in this county, whose agriculture wants the fostering hand of a landlord more; deterioration may be found with them in great perfection; and even middlemen, who enjoy large incomes under him, are so far from setting a good example, that they are usually the very worst kind of tenant an absentee can have, and the greatest tyrants to cottier tenants. I shall have occasion to say more of these gentlemen in another place. Oxen are now in many places guided by a ring in the nose; this always remains, and does not in the least prevent his feeding. Collars are also used by many, but the barbarous custom of working these poor creatures in yokes and bows is still continued.

In Tradree a good many oxen are used, but generally in yokes.

Sect. 4. *Nature and use of Implements of Husbandry.*

The plough of this county is very ill calculated to perform good work; one of its greatest defects is, the sole not lying flat on the bottom of the furrow, by which means small ribs are left unploughed, which in wet soils (especially where the ridiculous custom of cross-ploughing is practised) prevents the water from running into the furrow, and in winter is highly prejudicial. It may be set down as an axiom, that, when the ploughman does not preserve

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an erect posture at his work, it is badly executed; the furrow after good ploughing should be perfectly flat at the bottom, and the cut on the land side quite perpendicular; the share is seldom broad enough to cut the furrow, consequently great additional force is necessary to tear instead of to cut the sod; even if the fin should accidentally be originally broad enough, in a short time it wears almost off, and becomes quite blunt; this, and the general bluntness of the coulter, causes a great encrease of draft. The Scotch plough, according to the improved principles, seems to be one of the best we have yet adopted; it turns a sod nine or ten inches broad, and five or six inches deep, in stiff soils, with the assistance of only a pair of horses or oxen without a driver, in a much superior manner, and with more ease to both cattle and ploughman, than such work is usually effected in this county by four horses, and one, and very often two drivers, and, not unfrequently, a man to keep the plough in the ground by pressing on the end of the beam with a pitchfork. It very rarely happens, that the furrows are made straight; the person, who leads the horses, cannot possibly guide them in a right line; he is too much occupied in beating them (four in a breast) in the face to make them go forward; and the furrow, from the faulty construction of the plough, is generally so badly defined, that the horses

horses deviate from it, and form curves not unlike those tame and gently waving outlines, which some of our modern improvers are fond of in planting. Besides, the ploughman scarcely ever takes his eye off the furrow, he has enough to do to keep the plough in the ground; if, on the contrary, the ploughman holds the reins, his eye is constantly fixed on some object on the headland, which he sees between the horses' ears, who scarcely ever deviate from the square and clean furrow, that a good plough leaves; and the work is not only performed with exactness, but with ease to the horses, and, except in strong ground, the ploughman has seldom any exertion to make, the plough often running several perches without any assistance from him. At every ploughing match poles are set up on the headlands, to which a good ploughman runs his furrow nearly as even as if it had been cut by a garden line; a leader to a plough would find this almost impossible, as has been often proved at ploughing matches, where attachment to old ridiculous customs has induced some farmers to expose themselves by sending ploughs drawn by four horses or oxen; the result has been, without an exception, that their work was the very worst in the field, and even executed in a longer period than that by two horses.*

Sir

* I have frequently had the upper part of drains ploughed out, by placing stakes at each end, and executed as straight as if by a line.

Sir Edward O'Brien, the Rev. Frederick Blood, and Mr. Burton of Clifden, have adopted the Scotch plough, with two horses or oxen, worked with collars and no driver, and find every advantage, that could be wished for. To shew the benefit of good example, I have seen a neighbouring small farmer landing his potatoes in drills, thirty inches asunder, with a plough; so much superior is example to precept. In many parts of this county, and on light soils, they are so obstinate as to use four horses *abreast* in what can only be called *scratching* the ground, it could not be termed *ploughing*. The traces are generally made of rope, sometimes with iron thimbles, but seldom with collars; those made of straw, called *sugans*, are usually substituted.

The common harrows of the country are of various sizes; they usually have five bars; they are of very rude workmanship and materials, and the teeth are so fixed, that several follow each other in the same line. There has been lately a new kind of harrow adopted at the Implement Society's works on the North wall, that is reckoned superior to any former one; it consists of two small harrows joined in the middle, by which means it has not only the longitudinal motion of the old form, but has that hustling latitudinal one so desirable in rough ground; it is drawn by two horses, but each horse draws his own harrow, a mode that, if possible, should be adopted in all kinds of farming operations.

Carts

Carts are used by only a few gentlemen; those made in the country are sometimes called Scotch carts, but the principles, on which they are made, are little understood by carpenters; they may have the appearance, and be *painted blue with red wheels*, (a plan adopted lately by every botching carpenter,) yet be deficient in good principles. Sir Edward O'Brien has Scotch carts, admirably contrived for farming work; they are, 1st, carts; 2d, by the addition of cradles, they become harvest waggons; and, 3d, on the same wheels and shafts a frame goes on, that converts them into very capacious turf-waggons; the naves are of cast metal. Cars, called here truckles, and in other counties Munster cars, and of a very bad construction, are generally used; the axletree is always of wood, and so very thick, that a great deal of unnecessary friction is caused; they are usually sold ready made, including straddle and hames of ash, for 1*l.* 14*s.* 1½*d.*—five stone of iron, 17*s.* 6*d.*—smith, 9*s.* 9*d.*—in all 3*l.* 1*s.* 4½*d.* Much loss of labour is occasioned by not having the turf-kishes sufficiently capacious to draw a proper load for a strong horse; large unwieldy machines for this purpose are sometimes seen, in which four or six oxen or horses are harnessed. I have seen, in the streets of Ennis, six unfortunate oxen drawing one of these cumbrous machines; they drew by yokes and bows on their bare shoulders, seemingly

ingly much distressed; between the pain occasioned by this barbarous mode, and the ill construction of the machine, the load, though it appeared a mountain of turf, and was a cause of great exultation to the drivers, did not contain near so much as they could have drawn, if harnessed singly; for I observed, that, instead of pursuing a right line, they often staggered against each other, and deviated considerably, in so much, that I am convinced two of them frequently drew the whole; they drew twenty-one kishes of dry turf; singly, they would have drawn a much greater proportion.

In some few places the slide car without wheels is still used, and generally made of bog timber; for drawing loads down steep hills it is an useful implement, as it does not run on the horse's heels like the wheel car.

The other implements are spades, called in some parts of Ireland *loys* or *facks*. They are inconvenient heavy tools, throwing the weight on one hand, and greatly inferior in handiness and strength to those in use in some parts of the county of Meath, and other parts of Leinster. When they become worn, they are narrow in the blade and short, and most unfit for cutting in bog, or for moving loose earth; spades for this purpose should be very broad. I have seen upwards of forty men cutting drains in a bog, with these worn-down spades; the sod usually

fell off two or three times, and not unfrequently it was left for the shovel; as to pitching it to any distance, as it should be, that was quite out of the question; the custom in this county, and indeed in most others, is to leave every thing for the shovel: in arranging labourers, the stewards of this county allot a shovel to every spade, though a good shoveller could easily keep two spades employed; but the good-natured spadesman, to prevent the shovel wanting work, does not throw any of the earth up on the bank, and the steward, wrapped up in his great frize coat, takes no notice of this indolent habit.

Stewards and gardeners, who have even been in England, when they come into this country, too often conform to all the bad practices, and use all the unhandy implements of the country. Shovels are generally bad and too heavy: pitchforks are almost always too short in the prongs, and rakes with teeth so short, that much of the hay is left behind. Every kind of tool has a bad handle, generally crooked, and too small and pliant, partly from a scarcity of wood, and a partiality to a bent handle. Scythes and reaping-hooks, of the usual form, from England; but the first are so badly set in the handle, that a man, to mow as close as he should do, must almost touch the ground with his knuckles; as the mower does not choose to injure

injure his back by this posture, he is permitted by his indolent employer to leave a large portion of grass uncut, between where the point and heel of the scythe meet in different swaths.

Slanes for cutting turf generally too large. Wheel-barrows very bad; by the faulty position of the wheel, the entire weight is thrown on the hand, and they do not carry one-third of the weight they could with those, where the wheel is brought under the body. Some few gentlemen have potatoe washers, and still fewer have winnowing machines. I have not heard of any threshing machine in the county, but those belonging to Sir Edward O'Brien, and Boyle Vandeleur, Esq. with which he threshes forty barrels of oats (of fourteen stone each) in eight hours with two horses, smart work.

Sect. 5. *Markets for Grain.*

The principal markets for the sale of grain are Ennis, Innistymon, Clare, Skarriff, Six-mile-bridge, and Kilrush. Some are abundantly supplied, as Ennis, Clare and Kilrush, where grain is purchased very much for the Limerick exporters; the others are chiefly supplied with oats and barley, and some wheat. The different flour-mills take off a large quantity of the produce. The greater part of the barley is consumed in the private stills, that abound in every part of the county, and, however they may

have injured the morals and health of the inhabitants, they have certainly tended to encrease the quantity of tillage. The market of Kilrush is rising rapidly into consequence, and, if capital was not wanting, would take still larger strides, as, instead of buying on commission for the Limerick merchants, as practised at present, there would be a direct intercourse with Liverpool and other ports in England, not only for corn, but for beef, butter, pork, and rape-seed, which last is becoming an article of agricultural produce, that deserves every encouragement, because so materially connected with the improvement of the extensive bogs, with which this neighbourhood abounds, there not being less in one tract than four miles square; besides, the additional expence of shipping and reshipping, and loss of time in going up the Shannon, a distance of upwards of forty miles, would be saved. There has been lately a very commodious and handsome market-house built here by Mr. Vandeleur. The market-house of Corrofin is at present almost useless, as all corn not purchased at Clifden mills is sent to Ennis; to the disgrace of the Roman Catholic inhabitants, it is the chapel at present, and on Sunday morning the ball-players are turned out, to make room for the priest to celebrate mass, after which the ball-playing again commences. A few years since, a good deal of money was collected; amongst

amongst many others, Sir Edward O'Brien contributed twenty pounds, and many neighbouring Protestants also gave liberally for the erection of a Catholic chapel, but, after building a part of it, all further proceeding has been stopped, and it remains a reproach to the managers.

The market-house of Tullagh is also at present useless, except to the horses of those, who attend divine worship at either church or chapel.

The payment for corn at the mills, and by those, who buy on commission, is usually by bills at different dates, sometimes cash, and often part cash, to answer present demands, and the remainder by bills; an agreement is usually made by the seller, that he shall have not less than a certain present price, and whatever rise in the market (if any) there shall be between that period and a certain remote one, perhaps three or four months from the time he delivers his corn.

This is a wretched mode, dictated only by want of capital, and is frequently the cause of much disputing, and often of litigation, and sometimes loss to the seller, as lately happened by the failure of a commission house; but this practice has lately been abolished in many places. I could not find, that the want of the inland bounty on the carriage of corn to Dublin, formerly paid, has in the least diminished the produce of corn; whatever objections

tions may have been formerly made against the propriety of this act, it cannot be denied, that it caused the erection of a great number of extensive flour-mills, and of course promoted the cultivation of corn in districts, where, from want of this encouragement, scarcely more was produced than supplied the home consumption. Indeed the bounty paid in this county was very trifling, amounting in sixteen years to little more than 800*l.* whilst in Kilkenny, during the same period, upwards of 151,000*l.* was paid. Whatever may have been the merits or faults of the measure, I am perfectly convinced, that any encouragement to convert grass-land to tillage will be greatly misapplied, until an ameliorating course of cropping is one of the indispensable conditions, and could have been only dictated by those, who know more of financial and commercial affairs than of agriculture. The vast quantity of communications to the Board of Agriculture on this subject, if we were to judge from what have been published, shews how little the matter is understood even in England; one signed G. S. C. and republished by the Dublin Society in their Transactions, is particularly objectionable.

The good effects of either bounties or restrictions (with some few exceptions) on any kind of agricultural produce are at least doubtful, a certainty of a demand and a good price being much more likely

likely to encourage an extended cultivation than an act of parliament. See what the high price of rape has done; there are many thousand barrels of it produced in this county, which all the premiums offered by the Dublin Society, or the example of some very few landlords, could not effect; the high price and certainty of a sale at Limerick did wonders.

How many exposed themselves to ridicule a few years since, when they proposed to enact laws to oblige farmers to bring in their corn, and to establish a maximum of price? How these wise heads would shake, if a maximum of rent of their estates, or on commercial productions, was proposed? But it seems they imagined, as too many ignorant people do, that agriculture was of less consequence than any other branch of commerce, and the plough a less useful instrument than the loom or shuttle. The cultivation of rape is in a great measure free from the objections, that have been before stated against breaking up grass-lands for tillage, because, being usually sowed on bog or moor, this kind of soil is not so easily injured, and would otherwise remain totally unproductive. No bounty, public or private, should be given for any corn crop, that did not succeed or was not followed by a green one; and the Farming Society of Ireland are so far defective in their premiums for corn, as they confine them to quality and quantity of grain per acre.

A large

A large quantity of oats is consumed by the cavalry in the different surrounding towns; that of Gort alone consumes about 3500 barrels of fourteen stone each, at from 10*s.* to 14*s.* per barrel; about 800 tons of hay, at from 50*s.* to 3*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* per ton; and of straw about 400 tons; this consumption must be of great service to the country. Bad oats sell for as much to the contractors as the best, which is not a little extraordinary, as the army are usually very particular in the quality of their forage.

Sect. 6. *Use of Green Food in Winter.*

Potatoes are very much used in winter for milch cows and pigs; every cottier knows their value. The Rev. Frederick Blood, Mr. Blood, late of Riverston, and Mr. Burton of Clifden, have cultivated rape and borecole for this purpose, and found them of great benefit in spring; many others from their example are now preparing for their cultivation; they only want to be better known to ensure a general culture. Sheep prefer rape to borecole; when they have been turned into a field, where both plants were growing in great luxuriance, they scarcely touched the borecole, until the rape was all eaten; and it is remarkable, that there were many variegated curled borecole, which remained untouched, until the plain curled borecole was nearly finished.

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The graziers say, that the perpetual verdure of their land, especially on the calcareous soils, precludes the necessity of providing either hay or any cultivated green food. In those vast tracts of rocky ground in Burrin, devoted almost exclusively to the rearing of sheep, the use of hay is almost unknown, (indeed if necessary it could not easily be had,) and the continuance of snow for any length of time is very uncommon; if this should happen, immense numbers must starve, or be lost amongst the rocks. On lands, on which a Leinster man would think his cattle would starve, I have often seen a bite for them in March, caused by the natural fertility of the soil, and the shelter of the limestone-rocks, which is also of the greatest benefit to stock in winter and inclement springs. In this part of the county the graziers are very much in the practice of permitting their summer grass to remain untouched until the following spring; it is called here winterage, and in England rouen, and, where it will stand, as in this country, is of inestimable value, and frequently sells for a much higher price than it would have done in summer, especially when a low price for cattle induces graziers to keep over some of their stock to another season.

In other parts of the county, that do not possess these advantages, green winter food would be of infinite benefit, especially in the eastern and

western extremities, where, from the retentive nature of the substratum, and a total want of drainage, vegetation is greatly retarded; here green food would be inestimable, particularly rape, as, after the head is cut off, or the leaves stripped from the stalk, the plants should stand for seed; and, from some experiments I have tried, I know, that those plants, whose heads are cut off, are less liable to the mildew, than when they are left on. As the cultivation of this plant is beginning to be well known, I hope the landlords will exert themselves to introduce this practice amongst their tenantry, as they may rest assured no one thing will tend more to encrease their rent-roll than the spirited cultivation of this plant; they need but cast their eyes to their immense tracts of bog and mountain, to be convinced of this fact. When it is intended to use rape for both purposes, it should be sowed earlier than is commonly practised; the end of June or beginning of July would not be too soon. Too much seed is always used, and the plants never thinned, which causes the seed to be small, and more unproductive than if left thinner; if they were thinned to nine or ten inches asunder, much more and better seed would be produced; when it is used for green food, it should be cut previous to the first of March, as cutting after that period would very much injure it for seed, and too much of the head should not be

be cut off. If it could be accomplished, the best method is to transplant it into drills about thirty inches asunder; this would give an opportunity of landing them, which would tend greatly to improve bog, and indeed every kind of soil.

The farmers in the west of the county, who have been for many years in the habit of cultivating oats, as best suiting their moory soils, in very bad weather feed their cattle on straw alone, and, from their defective management in saving it, it is usually very indifferent. Few have more hay than serves their horses, and some not near enough, in which case they must put up with bad straw, and little or no oats. This county may well be called the horse's purgatory.

CHAP. III.

PASTURE.

SECT. I. *Nature of it.*

THE pasture of this county possesses that variety necessary for rearing and fattening stock of every species and age. The low grounds on the rivers Shannon and Fergus, called corcasses, are equal to the fattening of the largest sized oxen; these fine grounds extend from Paradise to Limerick, an extent of upwards of twenty miles, following the course of the Shannon and Fergus, and are computed to contain upwards of 20,000 acres, some say only about 10,000; they consist of a deep dark-coloured earth, generally over a blueish or black clay, or moory substratum, producing, from the greatest neglect, amongst the most luxuriant herbage, a great quantity of rushes and other pernicious weeds. Indeed the same complaint may be made of the lands of every grazier in Ireland; they are in general the most slovenly farmers, and none ever think of mowing thistles, nettles, fern, or even briars, except

except their wives, whose perquisite ashes are, get them cut for this purpose. These corcasses about thirty years since let for 20*s.* per acre, but now many are let at the enormous rent of 5*l.* merely for the purpose of fattening cattle, and sometimes much higher for meadow. Totally opposite in their nature and uses are the limestone crags of Burrin, and the eastern part of the baronies of Corcomroe and Inchiquin; these are, with some few exceptions, devoted to the rearing of young cattle and sheep, and some so very rocky, that four acres could not feed a sheep; intermixed with these crags may be found some ground of a very fattening quality, producing the finest flavoured mutton, where a person, ignorant of this quality, would imagine sheep could scarcely exist; in soils of this excellent nature white clover, trefoil, and yarrow predominate. Large tracts of these mountains are let by the bulk, and not by the acre. The pasture of the other baronies possesses every variety, from the mountain producing scarcely any thing but heath and carex of various sorts, and which scarcely keep young cattle alive, until it gradually melts into the rich corcass, that supplies the merchants of Cork and Limerick with immense quantities of beef for the navy. Pasture in the hands of the lower kinds of farmers and cottiers is generally very bad, owing to the system they universally pursue, in taking repeated corn

corn crops, and scarcely ever sowing any kind of grass-seeds, but leaving the ground to nature, who seldom fails in a few years to clothe their fields with grass; but in the mean time they must suffer great losses. Their pastures are usually overstocked, especially on those estates, where the landlord or his agent are so blind to their interest, as to grant leases in partnership; here every man wishes to keep as much stock as possible. In the eastern and western extremities of the county, the land usually consists of reclaimed mountain or bog, and, as they scarcely ever use any kind of calcareous manure, the pasture generally consists of coarse sour grasses, and carex of various sorts, which, if not eaten too bare, sustains a small number of young cattle, but infinitely short of the number it could, if improved by draining and liming. The ground between Poulinisky and Carigaholt is remarkable for producing good milk and butter; and there is a small field near Kilrush, which, though it will fatten a cow in a very short time, will take away the milk of the best milker in a few weeks; if this information is correct, the investigation of the vegetable productions of this field might lead to some useful fact interesting to the botanist as well as grazier.*

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* I did not receive this information, until I had left the neighbourhood, or I would have endeavoured to throw some light on the subject.

The murrain was a very common and fatal disorder some years since; like the rot in sheep, it exercised the ingenuity of conjecture and quackery; it was by some imputed to a worm with a very large head, and of very vivid colours, which, it was said, poisoned the water, that the cattle drank; by others it was conjectured, that some poisonous plant (the seed of which, I suppose, dropped from the clouds at that particular period) caused it, and which most fortunately asses were fond of (how lucky!); for this happy propensity they were purchased by many sagacious graziers, and the murrain ceasing about this period, the asses had all the honor, and it is still usual to keep two or three of these animals on a farm; the number of cattle killed by this dreadful disease was immense; many persons lost almost the entire of their stock, and were completely beggared; however the cure of it may have been effected, it has not been known for several years.

A peculiar kind of pasturage occupies the sand-hills opposite to Liscanor bay, and along the shore from Miltown to Dunbeg; they consist entirely of sand blown in by the westerly winds; this is arrested in its flight by the growth of the following plants, and has accumulated to immense hills, and at a good distance from the shore; in many places they prevent the ravages of the tide, and are a much

much safer barrier than those immense cliffs, which guard other parts of the coast, and into which the sea is making rapid progress.

White clover,	Trifolium repens.
Red clover,	Trifolium pratense.
Birds-foot trefoil,	Lotus corniculatus.
Yellow medick,	Medicago falcata.
Meadow soft grass,	Holcus lanatus.
Sheep's fescue,	Festuca ovina.
Annual meadow-grass, or Suffolk-grass,	Poa annua.
Dandelion,	Leontodon.
Coltsfoot,	Tussilago.
Black medick,	Trifolium lupulinum.
Ragweed,	Senecio jacobæa.
Ribwort plantain,	Plantago lanceolata.
Crested dogs-tail-grass,	Cynosurus cristatus.
Yarrow,	Achillea millefolium.
Daisies,	Bellis perennis.
Sea-reed, mat-weed, or bent, such as is used for making floor-mats in Dublin,	Arundo arenaria.
Several sorts of thistles,	
Yellow flag iris, in great luxuriance in several feet depth of pure sea-sand, on the sea-shore,	Iris pseudoacorus.
Rough cocks-foot-grass,	Dactylis glomerata.
Nettle,	Urtica dioica.

And many others, that I could not ascertain, or the names of which I forget.

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The greatest part of these plants are eaten by sheep, particularly the lotus corniculatus, which is kept quite close to the ground by them and rabbits, and seems to answer the high character given of it by Dr. Anderson, and in light soils is particularly well worth the notice of the proprietors, especially those possessing ground on the sea-shore, as this plant, both from the closeness of its branches, and the great length of its strong roots, (some of which I have traced ten feet deep into the sand,) prevents the wind from shifting the sand. This plant forms a very material part of the best fattening herbage of light soils, and frequently may be found in dry bog-ditches, and also on clay soils; it retains the finest verdure even in the driest sand, and hottest summers, occasioned by the great depth, to which the roots run. White clover also forms a very large portion of the growth of these hills. A large quantity of bent, such as is used for matting, might be annually collected here; it was formerly made use of by the country people for thatching, but those, who received the permission to cut it, not contented with this, pulled it up by the roots, and, by destroying the plants, permitted the wind to blow away the sand, that was detained by these roots; since that period they have been very properly denied access. This proves, amongst numberless instances, that any indulgence of this kind, especially to women, is too often abused; permit them to glean before your stacks are out

of the field, and they will pull them unless closely watched; the same complaint attaches to the English peasantry. Cattle and horses eat this plant, when better food cannot be had.

Little attention has been paid to the improvement of the pasture of this county, the greater part of it being so covered with rocks as to preclude all improvement, except by making good fences and destroying brambles, black thorns, and other useless growths. Rich corcass lands, that have never been broken up, or at least not for many years past, and are very much encumbered with weeds, or those lands, which have been so impoverished by repeated corn crops, that they produce a very scanty supply of poor sustenance for cattle or sheep for many years after, when they begin to recover their fertility, usually produce, amongst others, a large proportion of crested dog's-tail grass, (cynosurus cristatus,) in Irish thraneens, white clover, (trifolium repens,) and trefoil, (medicago lupulina). Laying down with grass-seeds has been hitherto practised only by very few gentlemen, who have uniformly borne testimony to the incalculable advantage of the practice. Mr. William Owen of Inchiquin, near Corrofin, sowed clover and hay-seed in ground, which had been completely exhausted by this system of over-cropping; when he sowed it, the ground was worth nothing, nor, if left to itself, would be for several years. The following summer

summer he mowed a very abundant crop of choice hay, and had several cuttings given green to cattle, horses, and pigs; had the whole field been used in this manner, instead of having been cut for hay, it would not only have produced at least three times as much food, but, what is of infinite consequence, a large quantity of manure would have been gained. So many instances have occurred in various parts of Ireland, under my own eye, of the inestimable value of the practice, that I cannot too earnestly press it on the attention of landholders, and of proprietors: the one would be enabled to give a good rent for lands, that are deemed worth little, and the other would, with only a little exertion of themselves or their agents, double their rent-rolls; it is a certain fact, that an adoption of a better system of farming would have this double effect.

The proportion usually allowed, is of ray-grass, if sowed alone, four bushels per acre; or of ray-grass two bushels, and red clover fourteen pounds, per acre.

Ground of this description, after having been used in this manner for two summers, should be broken up early in winter, as grass-grounds break up best when moist, and drilled potatoes should be cultivated. If the clover has been fed in the house, (and any other mode is most wasteful, and practised only by the most wretched farmers,) and the cattle have been well littered, there will be a sufficient

ficient quantity for this purpose; the potatoes to be followed by a crop of barley or oats, with which clover and hay-seeds should be sowed, and the soiling system steadily pursued as before; by which means, not only the land will be brought to a high degree of amelioration, but the manure, which under the old system of pasturing would be lost, if dropped on the land in summer, will remain for the improvement of other worn out ground, or any other purpose found necessary.

In hot dry summers, the grass of the rocky regions before mentioned becomes quite brown and withered, and stock are put to their shifts; but, shortly after a shower of rain falls, there is an astonishingly rapid change to a charming verdure, and the ground produces a fine bite, where a few days before they were almost perishing. This is to be understood chiefly of those parts, where the stratum of rock, provincially called flag, lies horizontally; if it assumes a perpendicular position, it does not suffer so much, as the fissures between the rocks of this description are generally filled with the richest earth, frequently many yards deep, which produces not only the most luxuriant pasture, but the most vigorous growth of trees, particularly ash, and scarcely ever loses its colour, except in extreme drought.

It is the custom of many graziers to take up their grounds in June or July, (sometimes in poorer soils they

they remain untouched from the foregoing autumn,) and to permit the grass to remain for feeding store cattle or sheep in winter, and frequently for the purpose of turning in cattle until their fattening ground is ready, which in backward springs is of great value. In whatever way this kind of grass is consumed, it is found to be a most beneficial practice, in so much, that when this kind of ground, from want of stock, and frequently from people taking ground they are not able to stock, (which is much the practice in this county,) is to be let for the winter, very high prices are often paid by those, who are overstocked, or whose soils are backward in vegetation.

SECT. 2. *Breed of Cattle—how far improved, and how far capable of further improvement.*

THE breed of this county are almost all long-horned, generally well shaped about the head, and tolerably fine in the limb, good milkers, and thrifty. They were formerly in great estimation with the Leinster buyers, who used to attend the fairs in spring (especially Innistymon) to purchase maiden heifers, until the frequent impositions practised by the breeders put a stop to it: it was no uncommon thing for a grazier to find several of his heifers springing, that were engaged to him to be maiden;

maiden; this avaricious practice at length brought its own punishment in the loss of a trade, that, honestly pursued, would have enriched them. A few of the old Irish breed may be seen in mountainous situations; they are usually black or of a rusty brown, with black reflected horns, and large bellies, good milkers, and very hardy; but, as improvement takes place in these mountains, the breed keeps pace with it, and you will frequently see at fairs very neat cattle (I mean cows) the property of poor people. A few spirited individuals have either imported, or bought from those, who did, cattle of the improved Leicester breed. Amongst others, Mr. Molony of Kiltannon, Mr. Blood, late of Riverston, Sir Edward O'Brien, Mr. Daxon of Fountain, and the Rev. Frederick Blood, have procured fine bulls, the want of which hitherto has prevented a more speedy improvement in the breed of cattle; for, by a judicious selection, many very fine heifers, scarcely inferior to any that have been imported at enormous prices, may be had at the fairs, which, on being crossed with improved bulls, would raise the breed in a few years to a high degree of perfection; but, until this is done, it is in vain to look for any superior degree of improvement. I do not recollect seeing in this county a native bull likely to get good stock; they are in general heavy-limbed, with large heads, leathery jaws, and dipped

dipped in the back; but size, in the opinion of many graziers, constitutes perfection. It is a common cant, accompanied with a horse laugh, or an ignorant remark on the Farming Society of Ireland, that there is no breed equal to *Phil. Roche's*, meaning, that, as he was an eminent exporter of beef in Limerick, that breed, which weighed most (and bone weighed better than flesh) in his scales, must be the best, without ever once considering the greater quantity of food it took to fatten this coarse-limbed and large-headed animal. For it has been uniformly found, that those beasts, who are fine in their shape, are most easily fattened, and those, for which premiums have been received at the shews of the Farming Society of Ireland, have been invariably perfect in their shape; amongst many others, the beautiful ox, for which Mr. Going received a prize at this shew; he was bred by Mr. Molony of Kiltannon, in this county, from cattle of a very superior breed, which he imported from Warwickshire, and was sold in a lot to Mr. Hastings near Killaloe, and by him to Mr. Going.

The custom of selling maiden heifers for slaughtering, at the different fairs, especially Ballinasloe, has tended very materially to retard improvement; for this purpose they are selected for the beauty of their shape and size at various fairs, and, after receiving a year's feeding, are usually sent to Ballinasloe

linasloe fair in May; had the same pains been taken to select them for breeding, and the ordinary ones killed, there would be a rapid improvement. It has been asserted, I know not with what truth, that the late Mr. Bakewell used to meet these heifers on the road in England, and purchase those of the finest shapes, and, after giving them his fine bulls, send their progeny over to us at very high prices. Nothing would contribute more to improve the breed of cattle, than landlords procuring good males of every kind for the use of their tenants, and giving them out at a trifling rate; for, paying for their use would make them anxious, and careful of their produce, and to those, who were too poor to pay, they should be gratuitous. One pig of a litter for the use of the boar is a good method; but they must beware of a trick, often practised, of bringing a young pig of the common breed of the county, instead of the improved kind. There is no sort of stock, that wants improvement more than swine; the general breed of this county is most wretched, and, as it is the poor man's stock, and on the sale of which the payment of his rent frequently depends, it behoves every landed proprietor, for his own sake, to contribute to their improvement. The number of absentees in this county is very great, and surely, independent of their own future encrease of rent, this is the least they can do for the immense sums they draw

draw from it to spend in other countries. This improvement might be effected, by agents to absentees being obliged to reside in the midst of the tenantry, and not, as is too common, in London or Dublin, never making their appearance, but when they fly down to receive the rents, and as quickly away again, totally ignorant of the destruction, that is usually accruing to land by too frequently burning it, to houses and fences from neglect, and to bog by improper cutting, &c. &c. There are some agents, who, so as they get the cash to enable them to make usurious discounts, care little what becomes of either land or tenantry; an agent, not living on the estate, appears to me a monstrous solecism in the management of it, and it is equally so to appoint one totally ignorant of the value of land.

Sheep have been greatly improved in their shape by the introduction of Leicestershire rams, but materially injured in the quality of their wool; this was formerly short and fine, adapted to the soil and manufactures of that part of the county, especially that produced in Burrin, and bore a high price at Ballinasloe fair in July; since that period it has become much coarser, and the old women regret the introduction of the *Dexters*, (as they call them) which, they say, spoiled their wool. The mutton of those high-bred sheep is by universal consent esteemed vastly inferior to that of the

native breed, procured in the remote parts of the county.*

It seems to be an opinion of most graziers, even the most prejudiced old-light men, that one cross with Leicester rams does not materially injure the mutton, but they will not allow it to go further. Mr. Blood, of Riverston, who possesses large tracts of rocky soil in Burrin, has with great judgment introduced the breed of South Down sheep, selected from the choice flocks of the Marquis of Sligo and Mr. Wynne of Hazlewood, convinced, that not only from their being amongst the finest-woolled sheep in England, but also from their approximation in propensities and in appearance to the ancient breed of the country, they are to be preferred for this kind of soil.

I have often with great pleasure viewed his lambs, produced by the first cross of South Down with selected native ewes; the improvement was astonishing; and there can be little doubt, that their produce will be covered with wool nearly as fine as the South Down; I have a sample of this wool, that is nearly equal to any South Down. The first cross gives the lamb half the ram's blood—the 2d gives 75 per cent.—the 3d gives 87½ per cent.—the 4th

* The great propensity to fat, often objected to in this new breed, is one of the greatest encomiums it could receive; how very easy to encrease the number on an acre, and bring them down to the most squeamish appetite?

4th gives 93¾ per cent.; after that, if care has been taken in the selection, no difference will be perceived. In a sheep-rearing country such as Burrin, possessing a short bite, and requiring activity to gather it, there can be little doubt of the inestimable value of the South Down breed of sheep, and that the breeders have sustained a heavy loss by the deterioration of their wool.*

At the fair of Ballinasloe in July, 1806, the best combing wool sold for 19s. 6d. per stone of sixteen pounds, whilst the South Down wool of the Rev. Mr. Symes of Ballyarthur, in the county of Wicklow, sold for 2*l.* 12*s.*, and by auction, where there was every fair competition amongst the buyers. The average weight of the combing wool is about 5lbs. the fleece, and of the South Down about 3lbs., so that the native fleece sold for about 6*s.* 6*d.* whilst the South Down produced 9*s.* 9*d.* At the auction of fine wool at Mr. Berry's in North Anne-street, Dublin, in September 1805, the following prices were obtained by the following breeders.

	per lb. s.	d.
Marquis of Sligo, No. 1. South Down, -	2	5
Do. No. 2. ¾ South Down ram, and ¼ Cunnamara ewe,	2	1

* Since the above was written, Mr. Blood has set his farms and sold all this kind of sheep, which must be considered a serious loss to

		per lb. s.	d.
Marquis of Sligo, No. 3.	Same breed, -	2	6½
George Grierson, Esq.	South Down, -	2	4
Rev. Mr. Symes,	- - -	3	3
Earl of Farnham,	Spanish and Ryland,	3	8

Sales of clothing wool, in 1806, *at the same place.*

Rt. Hon. Owen Wynne,	South Down,	2	9½
Do.	Do. -	2	6
Rev. James Symes,	Do. -	2	3
James Woodmason, Esq.	Do.	2	0
Rt. Hon. Owen Wynne,	Coarse South Down,	2	3
Marquis of Sligo,	South Down,	2	1
Francis Trench, Esq.	Do. -	2	2½
Nath. Trumbull, Esq.	Ryland, -	2	0
Marquis of Sligo,	Best South Down,	3	2
Rt. Hon. Owen Wynne,	2 fleeces Ryland, 8lb.	4	1
Earl of Farnham,	Spanish and Ryland,	3	9½
Rev. James Symes,	South Down,	4	0
George Grierson, Esq.	Do. -	3	4
Thomas Trench, Esq.	Spanish and Ryland,	2	9½
Francis Trench, Esq.	South Down,	2	7
Colonel Brown,	Do. -	3	7
John Trench, Esq.	Do. -	2	6½

Amount of sales, 442*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

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to that part of the county. A piece of superfine broad-cloth, manufactured from the wool of these sheep, has obtained one of the premiums given lately (March 1808) by the Farming Society of Ireland, yet the breeders permitted this valuable breed to leave their county.

Sales of clothing wool, in 1807, *at the same place.*

		per lb. s.	d.
Rev. James Symes,	South Down 95 fleeces, (13*s.* 3*d.* each,)	5	4
Do. -	Wicklow and S. Down,	2	0
Marquis of Sligo,	South Down, 289 fleeces	4	0
Do. -	Do. - -	2	5
Rt. Hon. Owen Wynne,	Do. 34 fleeces,	2	2
Do. - -	Cast Do. -	2	5
Do. - -	Do. 3 rams fleeces,*	3	6
Do. -	Do. 166 fleeces,	3	9
Bindon Blood, Esq.	Do. - -	3	7
Rev. Thomas Trench,	Do. - -	2	8
Lord Clermont,	Do. - -	4	0
Do. - -	Half-bred, 34 fleeces,	2	2
George Grierson, Esq.	South Down,	2	1
Do. - -	Do. 111 fleeces,	3	10

Amount of sales, 560*l.* 11*s.* 8½*d.*

In point of hardiness the South Down sheep are equal to any breed, and the mutton of them produced at the Farming Society House in Ballinasloe, in October 1805, was of the most exquisite flavour, though only

* The three rams' fleeces sold for 9*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* or 16*s.* 11*d.* each, and weighed 14½ lbs. It will be seen, that these prices have not been obtained for a few picked fleeces, (as prejudiced graziers have more than once asserted,) but for whole flocks. Lord Clermont's receiving 8*s.* 7*d.* per fleece of half bred sheep is well worth the attention of breeders, as indeed is the whole list.

only two years old; they were bred by Mr. Grierson, who deserves great credit for his spirit and perseverance in this and every thing beneficial to his country.

The swine of this county possess every defect of form; they are remarkably narrow across the back, thick-legged, and have monstrous heavy ears, nor are they so easily fed as the Leicestershire breed introduced by some gentlemen lately. Mr. Blood of Riverston received a medal, at Ballinasloe shew in 1804, for the best pig of any age, and greatly improved the breed of the neighbouring gentlemen and farmers, and even those of the cottiers, by hiring his boar, for which he received a pig of the litter at six weeks old; in my rides round his seat I could easily distinguish the improvement in the shape. The Rev. Frederick Blood has an improved breed of this animal; Mr. Daxon of Fountain from Lord Cunningham's breed; and Mr. Burton of Clifden from Mr. Blood's breed. Many farmers contend, that swine roaming at large thrive better than when confined; this proceeds not only from the filthy state, in which they keep them, but from irregularity in the feeding.

The breed of horses has dwindled very much, and, until that of strong active hunters is again introduced, little improvement can be expected. The introduction of Suffolk punch stallions would be of infinite use to the breeders of draft cattle,

as

as they combine great strength with activity, and would help to banish out of the country that vile breed of heavy-limbed black horses, that have so long usurped the place of a more generally useful kind. There are a vast number of mules bred in this county, but with little or no selection; consequently you seldom see one of good size. Mr. Crow of Ennis has procured a very fine ass of the Spanish blood, which has greatly improved the size and shape, and, were any but the very worst sort of mares devoted to this purpose, a very valuable breed would be introduced. Asses are very commonly used, especially by poor people, and are highly useful, when the weight to be carried is moderate, but yet too much for a man. An ass and a small cart, or two baskets, as generally used in this county, will be found very serviceable for bringing clover or other soil to the stables and cattle-sheds in summer, because the frequent journeys, they are obliged to make, prevent that waste, which is generally made by bringing in a large quantity at once to save a lazy herd trouble. I never have gone into a house, where the soiling system has been attempted, but my nose could detect this abuse from the hot smell occasioned by the fermenting herbage, and the owner has often complained to me, that his cattle did not thrive on soiling, without knowing the cause; this it is,

much

much more frequently than from too small a quantity.

Mutton, whose fat is yellow, frequently occurs in this county, but is not peculiar to it, as I have observed it in every part of Ireland, and often in Dublin markets, where some squeamish people object to it; but, if fat, it is equally good as any mutton, perhaps better. The cause of this colour has not perhaps been satisfactorily ascertained; it cannot be the food, as has been often said, for the fat of all the sheep on the same pasture would receive the same tinge; if it is from disorder, as has been contended, it must be one, that is not hurtful, as they fatten well, and on opening them no sign of disorder appears, as in the rot; a butcher in Ennis informed me it was certainly in the breed. In Guernsey, I am informed, the fat of both cattle and sheep is of a yellow colour, and remarkably well flavoured.

Markets or Fairs for them.

The principal markets for fat cattle are Cork* and Limerick; a few years back, an attempt was made

* In the second part of Mr. Young's Tour in Ireland, he states the average value of the exports of pasturage, consisting of beef, butter, candles, hides, tallow, live stock, and cheese, ending in 1757, to be annually, 1,218,902*l.*; this must be considered as the exports of Ireland at large. Since that there has been a great encrease, for in the

made to establish one at Clare, connected with a commercial house at Liverpool, but from some unfortunate circumstance it failed; if successful, it would have benefited the country very much. As the demand at these markets depends almost entirely on the continuance of war, it becomes frequently very precarious, and fluctuating in its effects between riches and ruin. If contracts are made by commercial houses in England, agents attend the fairs in November and December, and generally give good prices; if a peace is expected, or, as has been the case in 1806, the merchants are combined, the graziers are completely at their mercy, and suffer not only every kind of gross indignity of treatment from these *great men*, but suffer serious losses from the cheating of every person concerned in slaughtering these cattle. As it is scarcely known in other parts of the kingdom, it may be at least amusing to detail the business a little. The grazier finding no agent attending the fairs to buy, (except some trusty friend of the merchants, who reads a letter from Cork or Limerick, stating the rumours of a peace, or the expected very low price, is

 obliged

the city of Cork alone there were slaughtered in 1806 fifty thousand oxen and cows, which, valued at only 15*l.* each, make, for them alone, 750,000*l.*—He also states the value of pigs, at the same period, to be 150,631*l.* whilst Cork alone in 1806 exported one hundred and fifty thousand pigs; and as few are exported but those of large size, the value may be estimated to be at least 300,000*l.*

obliged to drive his cattle to either of these markets; after driving them into either of these towns he waits upon the great man, and with all humility begs to know, if he wants any fat cattle; after a good deal of pretended hurry of business, and waiting for a repetition of the question, "he believes he shall not want any thing more than what he has already engaged, but to oblige Mr. ——— he will endeavour to make room for them; as to the price, it is to be regulated by what any other grazier receives." When this is settled, he must drive his beasts to a slaughter-house, many of which are erected for this purpose; he pays for this a high price, and must give also the heads and offal; he must sit up all night, superintending the slaughtering, and must silently observe every species of fraud committed by the very worst kind of butchers; for, as has frequently happened, if resentful language is used to those scoundrels, they begin to whet their knives, and put themselves in an assassinating attitude; this in a slaughter-house at night, and amongst the horrid scene of carnage around him, requires no small share of nerves. Next morning, without taking any rest, he must bring his meat to the cutters-up; here, unless they are fee'd, begins the second part of the fraud he has to suffer; first they take for their perquisite several pounds of his best beef, and, if he has cows, unless they are well paid,

paid, will cut away large quantities of the udder, which they call offal, and which is *the property of the merchant, though he pays nothing for it.* The merchant also gets the tongue, and, if the grazier wants a few, must beg them at the rate of at least three shillings each. The third scene begins at the scales; here another perquisite must be paid, and much good meat is refused, because truly it should be a few pounds less than the stipulated weight per beast; an appeal then is made to the great man; "he is gone out," "he won't be home to-night," "he is so busy he can't be seen;" at length perhaps he is visible, and, when matters are explained, "Really Sir I do not wish to take your cattle; the prices I receive in England are so low, I shall lose by my contract; suppose you would try if you can do better elsewhere, but I will agree to take your beef, though below the weight, if you make the terms lower." The grazier has now no redress, and must agree to any terms: the business does not end here; then he enquires what mode of payment; bills at ninety-one days are the best terms he can get. He then applies to a chandler to buy his fat; when this is settled, the tanner must be waited on, and here, as well as with the chandler, bills at a long date are the only payment he can receive, and, as they are generally men of small or no capital, if their speculations should not succeed,

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their bills are worth little. This is but a small part of the gross indignities the grazier has to suffer; he has to transact a business totally foreign to his habits of life, consequently unable to cope with those, who from their infancy are used to the tricks practised in this business, and therefore able to avoid them or turn them perhaps to their own benefit. The price depends not only on the causes before mentioned, but on the size of the beast, those of a large size bringing more per cwt. than those of a smaller one, which is a premium on large bone, and cows are always lower in price than oxen, though they are sent to England in the same packages, and, if fat, go as the best beef called planters mess.

During the negociations for peace with France in the autumn of 1806, the expectation, not the hope, of a favourable issue prevented speculations, and determined both buyers and sellers to suspend them until the fair of Ballinasloe in October, or the result of Lord Lauderdale's negociation should transpire.

The next fair of any note is Clonroad near Ennis, on the 13th of October; at this fair the sales for fat cattle generally begin, and they end at Six-mile-bridge, on the fifth of December; any, that remain unsold after that period, are sent to Cork or Limerick.

There is a curious circumstance attending the laying in of store cattle in May, the price given then

then depending entirely on the sales for fat cattle the preceding winter; it is not easy to account for this on any other principle, than that a good price for the fat cattle puts a man in cash, and of course in good spirits, which opens the heart, but sometimes also blinds the judgment; for, what have the sales or prices of a consumed commodity to do with that, which is to be consumed in twelve months after? The price almost entirely depending on the buyers, and on fortuitous circumstances, there can be no possible clue to guide a man. The long faces at the fair of Ballinasloe in October on the news of a peace plainly proved, that the prices of a former had no effect on those of this year. The graziers may justly accuse me of great presumption; but it is the duty of every person engaged in the survey of a county to state what appears to be the customs of it, and to venture an opinion on their good or bad tendency; if it has no other effect, it may make them think on subjects, which it is highly probable they have handed down to them from their great grandfather, without adverting to a change of sentiment, that has taken place in England, and which appears to have a just foundation. As an instance of the force of habit on men ignorant of what is doing elsewhere, I have not met a single grazier in the county, that did not laugh at the idea of fattening cattle on soiling in summer;

and

and they will no doubt be astonished to hear, that one grazier in England, Mr. Mure, fed 240 oxen in sheds through a whole summer, by the mowing of one scythe, and all sold off very fat; and, though they may think me visionary, I am perfectly convinced, that, if the corcasses were managed in this manner, they would fatten twice the number of cattle, and make manure for poorer ground. It is a curious circumstance, that both graziers and the buyers of fat cattle at Cork and Limerick agree for the price without once handling them, all is done by the eye. I have known a cross-made high-boned ox to be rejected in a lot by an agent for a house in Limerick, that, on being killed, turned out much better than a more even-shaped one. It appears curious to see a man buy fat cattle in a field without alighting from his horse to handle them; if handling is unnecessary, the poor beasts at the Farming Society shews would be saved a great deal of needless torture, of that knuckling and pinching, that some amateurs are so fond of. Mr. Young's opinion on this subject deserves attention; he says, "When you see graziers go into a fair, and run off "lots of lean cattle, to buy by the eye only, they "are groping in the dark without more intelligence "or sagacity, than one of the beasts could use "in choosing out of a lot of men one to be his "master."

Fairs held in towns are a great nuisance, and towns are surely most inconvenient places to both buyer and seller, for the cattle are packed so close together, that it is not easy to form a judgment of their quality, and great difficulties are experienced to keep each person's cattle separate. Great abuses are permitted by the owners of cattle; it is a frequent practice to break their horns by unnecessary blows, especially at Ballinasloe, after they are sold; severe blows on the legs are viewed with perfect indifference by the graziers.

Great losses are sustained by having fairs in harvest; almost every person for many miles around Ennis and Killaloe deserted their reaping, which almost universally began the day before, to idle away their time at these fairs, which were held on the third of September; I saw very great quantities of oats lying on the ledge, and, as the following day was very wet and cold, and Sunday followed, they must have sustained very considerable losses; besides, the money spent on whiskey, and the consequent debility of both body and mind, must have been a serious addition.

LIST OF FAIRS.

Brodagh by Crusheen, -	17th January.
Miltown-Malbay, -	1st February.
Donass, - -	17th March.
Jeverstown, - -	23th March.
Holy island, -	8th April.
Newmarket, -	11th April.
Killaloe, - -	12th April.
Ennis, - -	16th April.
Dunbeg, - -	2d May.
Six-mile-bridge, -	6th May.
Callaghan's mills, -	9th May.
Clonroad, - -	9th May.
Kilrush, - -	10th May.
Rossmanaher, -	10th May.
Ardsallas, - -	12th May.
Tullagh, - -	13th May.
Innistymon, - -	16th May.
Kilmurry Ibricken, -	17th May.
Corrofin, - -	18th May.
Killanteel, - -	18th May.
Jasper's pound, -	19th May.
Kilkishen, - -	19th May.
Kilmichael, - -	19th May.
Brodagh by Crusheen,	20th May.

Kildysart,

Kildysart, - -	23d May.
Kilmurry M'Mahon, -	24th May.
Kilfenora, - -	25th May.
Ballyket, - -	26th May.
Holy island, - -	30th May.
Kilclaran, - -	31st May.
Killaloe, - -	31st May.
Bunratty, - -	3d June.
Turlamore—and races,	8th June.
Tomgraney, - -	9th June.
Bridgetown, -	10th June.
Donass, two days, -	11th June.
Killenenagh, -	11th June.
Rossmanaher, -	15th June.
Dromore, - -	17th June.
Miltown-Malbay, -	20th June.
Broadford, - -	21st June.
Spansel-hill, two days,	23d June.
Ballyludan, west, -	24th June.
Callaghan's-mills, -	27th June.
Ballyket, - -	4th July.
Cratilow, - -	5th July.
St. John's well, -	5th July.
Kilmichael, - -	18th July.
O'Brien's-bridge, -	25th July.
Dunbeg, - -	26th July.
Clonroad, - -	1st August.
Enagh, - -	1st August.

Ardsallas, - -	12th August.
Brodagh-by-Crusheen,	15th August.
Ballyket, - -	17th August.
Spansel-hill, - -	20th August.
Innistymon, - -	22d August.
Kilmurry Ibricken, -	25th August.
Kildysart, - -	27th August.
Newmarket, - -	27th August.
Kilkishen, - -	31st August.
Ennis, - -	3d September.
Killaloe, - -	3d September.
Tullagh, - -	5th September.
Donass, - -	21st September.
Dromore, - -	26th September.
Kilmichael, - -	28th September.
Turloghmore, -	29th September.
Tullagh, - -	1st October.
Jeverstown, - -	3d October.
Dunbeg, - -	8th October.
Kilfenora, - -	10th October.
Tomgraney, - -	10th October.
Kilrush, - -	12th October.
Clonroad, two days, -	13th October.
Rossmanaher, -	17th October.
Miltown-Malbay, -	18th October.
Killaloe, - -	20th October.
Quin, - -	1st November.
O'Brien's-bridge, -	7th November.

Callaghan's-mills,

Callaghan's-mills, -	14th November.
Brodagh-by-Crusheen,	19th November.
Broadford, - -	21st November.
Corrofin, - -	22d November.
Ballyludan, west, -	24th November.
Bridgetown, -	25th November.
Jasper's pound, -	26th November.
Donass, - -	30th November.
Ballyket, - -	1st December.
Kilclaran, - -	2d December.
Clonroad, - -	3d December.
Six-mile-bridge, -	5th December.
Turloghmore, -	12th December.
Dunbeg, - -	16th December.
Enagh, - -	17th December.
Newmarket, - -	20th December.
Kilkishen, - -	22d December.

SECT. 3. *General Prices.*

IT is no easy matter to ascertain the prices paid for cattle of different ages, as they varied at different fairs according to the demand, and also to the quality of some being very superior to others; for instance, those from Limerick always bringing a higher price than most other yearlings. Store cattle of every kind were much lower in 1807 than they had been for many years before, inso-

much, that dry cows could scarcely be sold for any price, however low, and greatly distressed the lower kind of farmers and cottiers, who wanted to exchange them for those in milk, or to make up their rent.

The prices given for fat cattle by the contractors of Cork and Limerick last year (1806) were unprecedentedly low; many graziers were obliged to sell their fat cattle for little more, sometimes less, than they paid for them as stores the preceding May. This cannot be imputed to low prices given by Government, but to a combination amongst the contractors, who the year before opposed each other, and helped to keep up the market, and by which I understand they were considerable losers; but last season and this there has been no opposition, except an hasty ill-judged plan amongst the Leinster graziers, that has been productive of nothing but disappointment. Were I to prescribe a remedy for this extreme fluctuation in the price of fat cattle, it would be the cultivation of large quantities of green winter food, that would enable them to keep over their cattle; for, the English contractors can no more do without Irish beef, than we can do without their money; and if the fat cattle are sold before they consume this green food, it will be of infinite use for store cattle, instead of straw, and will enable the grazier to finish

finish his cattle better, earlier, and in greater number than he ever did, and litter to make manure will be made of that straw, which formerly only kept his cattle barely alive.

On striking a balance of accounts for many years past, the graziers, I presume, have no great reason to complain of one or two bad seasons.

The sale of fat sheep is very limited; what the home market does not consume, is sent to Ballinasloe fair in October, and from thence to be finished in Leinster for Dublin and other markets.

Horses are rather improving within the last year, owing to an encouraging advance in the price: they sold at Spansel-hill in 1807; horses for draught, at three years old, for from 8*l.* to 25*l.*; those for the saddle, three years old, from 14*l.* to 60*l.* That fine breed of horses, for which this county was formerly famous, is now very rare.

Two or three fairs and a weekly market at Carrigaholt would be highly advantageous to the remote parishes of Kilballyhone, Killard, Moyferta, &c. as the land and stock are in a state of great improvement, and population is receiving a great encrease.*

In the western part of this county cattle were a few years ago uncommonly low-priced; milch cows frequently

* Since the above was written, fairs have been established.

frequently for from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* and other stock still lower; but in the year 1800, milch cows of the same quality were sold for from 4*l.* 11*s.* to 11*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; and dry cows, which at a former period were sold for from 1l. to 4*l.*, in 1800 rose to four and seven guineas, and every kind of young stock in proportion; this has been imputed not only to a rise in the times, but to an improvement in the stock.

At the fair of Innistymon, in July 1807, cattle were so low, that tolerable dry cows sold for 3*l.*, and middling two-year old heifers for 3*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, but sheep sold well.

In September 1807, I met a lot of fat old-light hogget sheep going to a butcher in Limerick; he paid 30*s.* a piece for them, but they were small, though very fat; it seems then, that old-light sheep will fatten at an early period.

Sect. 4. *Modes of feeding, and how far housed in winter.*

The usual mode of feeding on natural grasses has been before detailed; feeding cattle in winter in the house, except by very few gentlemen, and cottiers or small farmers, is little practised; these last usually keep their cattle in the house only at night, and too frequently turn them in the day into a wet field, where they can scarcely find any thing

thing eatable; they poach the ground full of holes, which retain the wet all the winter and spring, and, if intended to be cropped, retard the season for ploughing and sowing, and may justly be esteemed one of the principal causes of bad crops; if the ground is covered with grass, the injury by this bad practice is very great, as, if pasture, it retards the growth of the earliest and best grasses; if it is intended for meadow, it is usually eaten until far in May, often later; of course, the crop of hay is not only scanty, but, ripening at a late season, it is commonly caught by wet weather or heavy dews; besides, this late cutting prevents the growth of after-grass, that would, if produced after early meadow, sustain their cattle as long in autumn and winter as the weather continued dry.

Stall-feeding, I believe, is little practised; there is no market, that would take any quantity, except Limerick or Ennis; the latter market is not worth notice for this kind of stock, as a few would glut the market.

In the western parts of the county near the Atlantic, called the *far west*, the cattle are usually housed for five or six months, as the pastures, except in very good shelter, are quite bare, and storms of wind and rain very frequent.

Housing sheep in winter is not known in the county;

county; the land shelter and perpetual verdure, it is said by graziers, renders the practice unnecessary, especially in those large tracts of limestone soil, that are chiefly occupied by them; snow seldom lies on them for any length of time, except this year, 1807, when great losses were sustained by the suddenness and depth of it, drifted by the wind; some sheep remained for near a month under it, and were saved; many were also lost by the carelessness of shepherds, and what better can be expected, where some farms are fifty miles from the proprietor, who perhaps never sees his stock from the time he sends them there in May, until he meets them at Ballinasloe, in October? This probably may answer in grazing, but I am convinced no other speculation could bear such neglect.

Some good graziers make sheep-cocks of hay, but it is by no means general, and in Burrin quite unknown. Bad wintering is the cause of a defect in the wool, called by the manufacturer the *second growth*; it is a decay in the middle of the hair, and it breaks off here in the working; if the sheep are well fed in summer and spring, but neglected in winter, this defect takes place.

A few gentlemen, and the better kind of farmers, keep their swine confined in winter, but the cottiers usually permit them to roam about in the day, but always provide a place for them to retire to at

at night; this is usually done by excavating a hole in the face of a bank opposite to the south, and covering it with a few small sticks, and thatched with potatoe-stalks, scraws, tough sods, or any other convenient material; but too often they are permitted to take up their abode with the cow at one end of the cabbin; this is however much less frequent than it was formerly, and if resident gentlemen or the agents of absentees could be brought to think, that they have other duties to perform besides receiving rents, a very happy change doubtless would take place in this as well as in other bad practices, which it is more the fashion to talk about after dinner, than to endeavour to reform. Multitudes of swine of all ages are fed on the corcasses along the Shannon and Fergus, and are always in high condition.

Mr. Singleton, if I am well informed, who possesses large tracts of rich corcass ground, (upwards of 1000 acres,) buys store oxen of the largest size in May, feeds with hay in winter, and after a second summer's grass sells them fat in Limerick, and this on ground, for which he could get seven guineas an acre for meadow. I confess I am quite at a loss here; to pay fifteen guineas for an ox at Six-mile-bridge, feed him two summers and one winter on ground worth seven guineas an acre, and sell him for a profit of perhaps five pounds! It

baffles all calculation; it must however be recollected, that Mr. Singleton pays only 9*s.* 6*d.* per acre for the greater part of this ground, but surely no beast would pay fourteen guineas profit, besides, what I believe is never once thought of by graziers, interest for two years. Mr. Singleton has always had the finest cattle, that were killed in Limerick; many will sacrifice a great deal to support their reputation for being at the top of the market; but even supposing, what may be the case, that the cattle are laid in at the October fairs, and fed one winter and one summer, yet this would be at an expence of 11*l.* 18*s.* 10½*d.*, supposing an acre in summer and half an acre for hay; had Mr. Singleton been more communicative, I might have been able to clear up this point.

The horses of the poorer classes are as badly kept as their cattle, of course unable to perform good work in spring: those belonging to gentlemen and substantial graziers are fed like those of the rest of Ireland; some are fed well, and others get but a scanty share of oats: it is no uncommon thing to find the stables of men of large fortune quite destitute of oats, and perhaps of hay, in the middle or end of summer; and, whilst their guests are enjoying every hospitality in the parlour, their horses are neglected in the stable, and I would advise no person to travel with a valuable horse without

without a sharp-sighted servant, that will not be bashful; to the above I am happy to state there are many exceptions, as I have often experienced.

Sect. 5. *Natural Grasses.*

The indigenous grasses are such as are usually produced in soils of the same nature in every part of Ireland, except the alopecurus pratensis or meadow fox-tail, which I could not find in any part of the county; the different sorts of phleum are often taken for it, but the spike of this is smooth, whilst the other is bearded like barley, and their time of flowering marks their difference; the alopecurus flowers very early, the other very late. In the dry calcareous soils of the most fattening quality the following grasses predominate.

White clover, -	Trifolium repens.
Yarrow, - -	Achillea millefolium.
Trefoil, - -	Medicago lupulina.
Bird's-foot trefoil,	Lotus corniculatus.
Crested dog's-tail-grass,	Cynosurus cristatus.
Ladies' bed-straw,	Galium verum.
Perennial red clover, &c. &c. &c.	

In soils, that approach more towards clay, plants appropriate to them are usually found. It will not, I presume, be expected I should make a tedious display of every weed in the county, but I shall mention, in the Appendix, the more rare plants found by Dr. Wade and Mr. Mackay.

Such is the proneness of our favoured soil and climate to produce the best grasses, that, even after the most deteriorating system of cropping, a few years rest enables our fruitful soil to furnish a supply of the plants above stated; this, amongst others, is the reason, that grass-seeds are seldom sowed, and is a matter of astonishment to the farmers of England, where such a system could not be pursued, the ground there producing but little natural grasses; indeed here it is rather a misfortune than a blessing, because in some measure it encourages the farmer to pursue so bad a system, which is a serious loss to the community, as is the practice throughout Ireland. This shall be further investigated hereafter, and deserves the most marked attention of the landholders.

The best season for sowing grass-seeds has long been a cause of much controversy amongst agricultural writers; some have recommended them to be sowed in spring with a crop of corn, others by themselves at the same season; many are advocates for autumnal sowing without any corn crop, where the ground is clean; many contend for an additional crop of spring corn, and that the corn should be sown much thinner than if alone, otherwise much of the grass will be destroyed. If the ground is dirty, I would recommend sowing in July or August, with a very thin crop of oats,

to

to be mowed green for soiling, and cut close to the ground, by which means there would be an opportunity of destroying weeds, which would not be able to shoot again before winter; the oats would shelter the young grass from the sun, whilst their assistance was necessary, and by the time they were long enough to cut for soiling the weeds would have attained to some growth, and would be cut down along with them, and the frosts of the ensuing winter would complete their destruction; even if the weeds were not cut, they would not have time to perfect their seeds before winter; in the following spring, the grass, if sowed thick enough, would get the start of annual weeds and overpower them. Sowing in autumn without a crop of corn, though it may have succeeded in very clean rich ground, and favourable seasons, is perhaps very inferior to sowing with a very thin crop of oats or barley; from want of attending to this, and always permitting the corn to ripen, has, I am convinced, originated the preference. Many experienced agriculturists have lately adopted the practice of sowing a thin crop of rape in July with their grass-seeds, to be eaten off frequently by sheep during the winter and spring; the treading of the sheep and their manure are highly beneficial to light soils, or reclaimed bog or mountain. I was formerly an advocate for sowing grass-seeds in spring only,

only, but I have had such frequent opportunities of seeing the superiority of those sowed in summer, that I warmly recommend the practice.

Amongst the natural grasses of the county, those produced in the corcass lands along the Shannon and Fergus are greatly superior in luxuriance; it is reckoned nothing extraordinary to mow six tons of hay per acre, and it is asserted, that eight tons have been often produced; one man weighed the produce of half an acre, he was quite disappointed, it only weighed three tons! Boyle Vandeleur, Esq. had twenty-four weighed loads of four cwt. each, on each acre of corcass, at 5*l.* per acre. It is not a little extraordinary, that so bad a kind as couch-grass (triticum repens) should be esteemed by many as a very valuable corcass meadow-grass. These rich lands are apt to be filled with rushes, where they are neglected, and chiefly where heavy cattle are permitted to go in winter; I should think sheep at that season should be the only stock permitted to pasture on ground of so very tender a surface. Mr. Singleton, who rents large tracts of these lands from Sir Edward O'Brien, has nearly destroyed rushes by constantly digging them up, as soon as they appear. The grasses, that predominate on those rich lands, are,

Poa trivialis,	Common meadow-grass.
Triticum repens,	Couch-grass.
Cynosurus cristatus,	Crested dog's-tail or thraneens.

Trifolium

Trifolium pratense,	Red clover.
Trifolium repens,	White clover.
Bromus mollis,	Soft brome-grass.
Avena elatior,	Tall oat-grass.
Lolium perenne,	Ray-grass.
Holcus lanatus,	Meadow soft-grass.
Hordeum pratense,	Meadow barley.
Agrostis stolonifera,	Creeping bent-grass.

There are some more kinds, that I could not ascertain, but the above are the most numerous; here, where I expected to have found the alopecurus pratensis in great perfection, I could not discover a single plant; it flowers so early it might have escaped me, for it was September when I was there; dactylis glomerata or rough cock's-foot-grass was very rare. As there are many very inferior kinds *for meadow* in the list, for instance, couch-grass, crested dog's-tail, soft brome-grass, meadow barley, and creeping bent-grass, it shews what luxuriance can effect; for they were here so totally changed by it, that they were in general upwards of three feet high; any person, who has seen the creeping bent-grass growing in worn-out dry soils, will scarcely credit this. There is a plant, which the inhabitants call lutther, growing in rivers of slow current or in stagnant pools, which produces extraordinary effects; cows almost dry, put into a field near where this plant grows, almost immediately

ately give a great quantity of milk; but they must be watched, for it has the same dangerous effect of every other kind of luxuriant green food, if eaten in too great quantities at once. On this plant geese grow to a large size, and become exceedingly fat and well flavoured in a short time, and make every exertion to procure it.

Sect. 6. *Artificial Grasses.*

Except by a very few spirited individuals, artificial grasses are scarcely known in the county; red clover and ray-grass are the only kinds, that are propagated; even those in small quantities, and seldom used, as they ought, for soiling in the house. Indeed, until a more enlightened period arrives, they are the only kinds I would recommend to farmers; gentlemen may, and should try every variety, that usefulness or whim has introduced. In this number, vetches for soiling in the house will be found a most useful plant, because, though they are a valuable plant on the best soils, they will thrive on those, that have been impoverished by repeated corn crops, and, if sowed thick enough, (four bushels to the acre,) they will leave the ground in the cleanest state, and sufficiently ameliorated by their shade to produce a crop of clover and ray-grass; in worn-out ground they have been tried against a fallow, and the

the wheat has been always better than after the fallow. They should not be cut at random, as too often is the practice with all soiling crops, but a swath cut from end to end of the field in the direction the future ridges are to run, and this mode followed in each successive cutting, by which management the clover and grass-seeds may be sown in parallelograms, without waiting, as usually practised, until the whole field is cut: there will be an advantage in thus sowing daily; the seed will be deposited in earth fresh stirred, which is a matter of no small moment in all crops, especially those sowed in dry weather. In the use of clover for soiling great waste is usually made, by delaying the cutting, until it is in flower, sometimes much later, when the stalks get hard, (this season will answer for hay, but is quite too late for soiling,) and when many of the bottom leaves are rotten, and the sap is wasted in producing that, which cattle seldom eat, unless pinched by hunger, and the greater part is often thrown on the dunghill. In feeding pigs this waste is particularly remarkable; for, instead of eating all parts of the plant, as they would do, if given in a more succulent state, they only chew it, and often sucking the juices throw it out of their mouths in dry hard pellets; on the contrary, when it is given in a young state, every particle is greedily devoured. To use this most

valuable crop to the greatest advantage, the field should be divided into about thirty-two divisions, (a mathematical exactness is by no means necessary;) this allows every second cutting to be about a month old, which in good ground will be sufficiently long for the scythe, and, if the length of each cutting is added together, it will be found much greater than that cut for hay; to enjoy the full advantage of the soiling system, the first cutting must be made, when the clover is about four inches long; to many this may appear a great waste of food, but they will find the full benefit of it at the end of a month; this should be practised, even if the clover was thrown on the dunghill; it is almost needless to remark, that the ground should be well cleared from stones, and well rolled. Unless hay is scarce, or some other strong circumstance makes it necessary, soiling in the house, with this or any other green food, will be found not only more economical in its consumption, but infinitely more beneficial in its effects on the land, by the great quantity of manure that will be made, if proper care is taken to supply litter or dry turf-mould abundantly. At Dromoland, in the middle of September, I saw the second cutting of coarse grass, from plantations and wood-lawns, given to eleven working oxen and thirteen horses in the house; they had been fed for upwards of two months in this manner with

with what in most places is generally permitted to rot on the ground, and becomes a nuisance to any well kept place; this feeding may be very moderately valued at 8*s.* per month for the oxen, and 16*s.* for the horses, in all 29*l.* 12*s.*; a considerable quantity also of vetches, clover, Swedish and Norfolk turnips, are cultivated in a masterly style at Dromoland. White English hay-seed, holcus lanatus, is the kind very generally sowed, frequently the sweepings of the hay-lofts of inns; for few gentlemen or farmers have an idea of saving their hay-seed in their stables, all is swept out in the dung, that is not eaten by the horse in the manger. This last kind of hay-seed, if produced from clean meadows, and well cleaned before sowing, is greatly superior to the former kind, (holcus lanatus,) which is of a very inferior quality, as it not only retains the dews very long in its woolly leaves, and retards the hay-making, but, when made into hay, is soft like tow; the quantity of seed it bears is the only recommendation; even this is very easily lost in the making, unless uncommon care is taken. This is usually the first grass produced naturally in reclaimed bog, and is of use, until it gives place to a better; another kind of grass, also naturally produced in reclaimed bog, is the sweet vernal grass, (anthoxanthum odoratum,) and is of still less value. White clover is sowed only by a few gen-

tlemen to lay down their lawns, for which purpose it is peculiarly well adapted, as in the driest weather it retains its verdure, and, if any patches should fail, it will supply the deficiency by its creeping roots.

Red and white clover succeed admirably well, when sowed with flax; the superiority of the preparation ensures a good crop, and the upright growth of the flax not only shades it from the sun, whilst in its tender state, but the pulling of the flax destroys any young annual weeds, and does no injury to the long tup-rooted clover.

Mr. O'Brien of Cratilow mowed clover twice this year, 1807, for hay, the last cutting in September; I imagine it would have been more profitably applied in soiling, especially where meadow was plenty.

Sir Edward O'Brien, Mr. Boyle Vandeleur, Mr. Colpoys, Mr. Burton of Clifden, the Rev. Frederick Blood, and Captain Palliser are amongst the few, who sow clover or any other green crop.

There has been a kind of ray-grass lately brought from England, called *Pacey's*, from the farmer in Northumberland, who first collected it from amongst the common kind. It possesses the following properties: first, it requires less seed to the acre, on account of its tillering or propagating at the root more than the common kind; secondly it ripens two

or

or three weeks earlier, and should be cut at least that much sooner; thirdly, it will sustain more stock, which should be always put on earlier than on the common, before the stems get hard, and then the harder stocked, in reason, the better; fourthly, it is known by a darker hue than the common kind in the field; two bushels to the acre will be sufficient.

Sect. 7. *Mode of Hay-making.*

There are few agricultural practices, in which this county is more defective, than in hay-making, except in very few instances, and those I fear accidental; I never saw what I would esteem well-saved hay; the cutting is almost always too long delayed; if the weather is dry and sunny, it is turned so frequently, that it is completely bleached and sapless; even in this state, instead of making it into tramp-cocks, or drawing it home, it is the common practice to throw it into small cocks of about a hundred weight, in which it lies perhaps for a fortnight or more to soak, and probably at the end of this period it is again turned, and made into the same-sized cocks for another fortnight, thus receiving every shower at the top and sides, and, if in bottom meadows, damaged underneath. The farmers say their hay would heat, if put up sooner, not considering, that hay, until it ferments moderately,

moderately, has not arrived to a state of perfection; but if a farmer, on putting his hand into a cock, finds it the least warm, all his men are immediately summoned, and the hay is unfortunately spread out again to be sunned. I would by no means recommend that high state of fermentation, which turns the hay brown, and which English obstinacy in some counties prefers to green hay, but that, which gives the saccharine fermentation, and delightful perfume, without injuring that fine green colour, without which no hay can be good.

If the grass is cut with rain or dew on it, it should be immediately well shaken by hand after the mowers, and in about two hours should be turned; after remaining about the same length of time, it should be made into small grass-cocks, without permitting the dew to fall on it, and made on a smaller base than the slovenly practice of this county dictates; for this purpose the bottom should be well pulled, and the handfuls laid across each other on the top to help to throw off wet; if put up dry, it may remain two days in these cocks; then, if the outsides are dry, three rows should be brought into one, which may be easily done by a man sticking his fork with long prongs (which by the bye I never saw in this county) into the cocks, and carrying them into the middle row; there should be people stationed to shake out the hay immediately

diately with their hands; in about two hours it should be turned, and, after lying about the same time, made into field cocks of about a ton each. This method is calculated for dry weather; if it is showery, the process must be more tedious, but in this county it is always more so than it need be. Every attentive farmer should go frequently through his field cocks, and try, by putting his hand in a good way, if the proper degree of fermentation is going on; if the heat (which is seldom the case) is too great, the cock must be taken down, and instantly remade. If the grass is perfectly dry, when cut, there is no necessity for throwing it out of the swath until the following day, when the dew has evaporated, and the same process pursued as just now advised. This mode to an Englishman would appear tedious and unnecessary, but the grass in this moist climate is much more succulent, and there is not that drying quality in the air, that prevails in England; even here in some dry uplands, where the grass is thin, and the weather very hot, much of this turning may and ought to be omitted, for I would guard against the sun-beams as much as against rain.

It is astonishing, how careless the proprietors of meadows subject to be flooded are; scarcely a year passes that immense quantities of hay are not spoiled by neglecting to draw it to high ground: they also suffer

suffer great losses by permitting their hay to remain too long in the field after having been made into cocks. In a country, where hay is so valuable, one would imagine a more careful management would be pursued. I have seen hay, more than once in the same season, caught by floods, yet still permitted to remain.

The method, pursued in the north of Ireland, of making their hay into small lap-cocks, is a very superior one; but the mode I have presumed to suggest is more likely to be adopted, and will not alarm their prejudices so much, as directions how to make their hay into muffs. The lazy custom of shaking out hay with forks should never be permitted; the bands will do it much more effectually.

When hay is in a fit state to make into tramp-cocks, it is an excellent method to draw it home to the stack-yard and make it into the same kind of cocks; these should be ranged on each side of the place intended for the rick, and will save a great deal of labour in pitching, &c. Circumstances will often occur, such as a continuance of wet weather, want of hands, &c. &c. when some deviation from the method prescribed must be made, but the nearer it can be approached, the better.

Considerable injury is done not only to the crop, but to the ground, by the universal practice of mowing

mowing too late in the season; if grass is let in corn acres, it is invariably deferred to a very late period, frequently the end of October. I have seen several fine corcass meadows, that were fit to cut in June, mowing in October; by this means the hay was not only greatly injured in its quality, (the bottom being quite decayed,) but there was a loss of the after-grass, which often lets for a guinea per acre on those meadows, that are cut in July, and finish cattle of the largest size for Limerick market. A gentleman in the county of Mayo has put an excellent plan into practice to prevent this wretched mode; he lets his grass to be cut the first of August, at which time, or before he knows it will be fit, he receives one-third earnest, which is forfeited, if the meadow is not cut before the first of September; this practice deserves universal adoption, for the sake of both buyer and seller.

Sect. 8. *Dairies—their produce and management.*

Except near the town of Ennis, few regular dairies are kept, such as may be found in many parts of Leinster; but a few farmers and cottiers supply the neighbouring villages with milk and butter. A good quantity of butter is sent to Limerick from Ennis, it is mostly produced near Clare and Barrentick;

rentick; lately a good quantity has been sent from Kilrush. In Ennis the new milk is usually from 8*d.* to 1*s.* 1*d.* per pottle of eight quarts, and fourteen quarts per pottle of thick milk, from which the cream has been skimmed, for 8*d.** In this county they churn only the cream, by which means what they call buttermilk (but it is only thick skimmed milk) is not so good as in Leinster. From the general goodness of the pasture and the breed of cattle, the milk gives a large portion of butter: there is nothing particular in the method of making butter; they have the vile practice, in common with the rest of Ireland, of putting too much hot water to the milk, whilst churning in winter, to hasten the process; instead of this, the churn should be placed in a vessel of warm water some time before churning, which would not injure the colour of the butter. In summer, when the mistress is not too fine a lady to pay attention to her dairy, the butter is usually very good; but I have met some ladies, who, so as their butter was made very pale-coloured, seemed to overlook the bad flavour proceeding from dirty vessels, and praised it highly! It is produced in such various quantities, depending so much on breed, food, good milking, and dairy management, that any guess at the quantity would be ridiculous. A few farmers near towns hire their cows to their tenants,

* Strange as it may appear, this is the usual measure.

tenants, whose wives retail the milk; they usually receive five or six guineas per annum for each, and it is said the retailer, with the *black cow's milk*, (water,) is able to make 12*l.* per annum of the compound, if the cow is tolerably good. Farmers generally have from four to eight; scarcely a cottier without a cow, some two, besides their succession.

Almost every farmer has some butter to spare; it is sent to Ennis, and from thence to Limerick for exportation; it is packed in tubs of twenty-one and nineteen inches, and in firkins.

Considerable quantities of sheep's milk are mixed with that of cows for the Ennis market, and those, who practise this deception, will not purchase any ewes but those, that are likely to help the pail.

The filthy custom of permitting the calf to suck two teats, whilst the dairy-maid is emptying the other two, prevails here as well as in the county of Galway; this delicate custom has certainly economy to plead in its favour, as the dribbling milk from the calf's mouth is caught in the milk-pail; in some places the calf gets the fore-milk, in others he gets the last, or the strippings.*

Very little cheese is made in this county, and that little very indifferent; cream-cheese is some-

* The difference between cream or butter produced from strippings or last-milk, and that from the fore-milk, is from sixteen to one, and at the lowest eight to one, according to the goodness of the cow.

times made, but, as the butter is the perquisite of the lady, it is only on state days this luxury makes its appearance, and then it generally wants ripeness.

Butter may be preserved sweet for several years by the following receipt; it never gets hard or brittle, but still looks like butter just taken from the churn; it must not be used for a month after making.

10 ounces of common salt, made very fine.
2 do. salt-petre.
2 do. best brown sugar.

They must be well mixed together; to each pound of butter add one ounce of this mixture; it must be well worked up, packed close, and well kept.

SECT. 9. *Price of hides, tallow, wool, and quantity sold.*

THE greater part of the hides are sent to Ennis, and any overplus to Limerick; a good quantity is also bought at Kilrush for the same market: as there is no regular crane for weighing, and they are sent by boats from every little village on the Shannon, from Carrigaholt-bay to Limerick, there is no possibility of ascertaining the quantity; but it is generally imagined there has been a considerable encrease within the last twenty years; they are sold for from 2*s.* to 5*s.* per stone, and always from 3*d.* to 6*d.* under the Limerick prices; a higher price

is

is always given for ox than for cow-hides. Tallow is generally from 8*s.* to 11*s.* per stone of 16 lbs., and any redundancy is sent to Limerick.

In the year 1802 there were sent in Christmas week, from the little village of Carrigaholt to Limerick, twenty-six hides, an uncommon quantity for so remote a place, and for one so apparently poor; since that, the quantity sent to Kilrush and Limerick has greatly encreased.

Wool sent to Ballinasloe in 1806 sold for 20*s.* per stone of 16 lbs., and in 1807 for about the same; some superior samples brought a higher price, and those of an inferior kind much less. It is impossible to ascertain the quantity sent from this county; but when the great quantity of land, occupied by sheep, is considered, it must be very considerable, for in the barony of Burrin alone it is estimated at nearly 10,000 acres. Buyers from Cork and Limerick generally go to the graziers' houses, and make such bargains as they can, and pay in bills at various dates; this is a much better method for buyer and seller, than losing their time and money by striving to tire each other into a sale, as is practised at Ballinasloe at the wool-fair in July. It is perfectly ridiculous to see sensible men walking about the streets of Ballinasloe, the buyers at one side, and the sellers at the other, for often six weeks or more; this has been carried so

far

far sometimes, that the buyers have made parties to take a tour to Killarney or elsewhere for a fortnight or more, thinking to tire the sellers into a bargain. Some regulations have lately been adopted, which, it is hoped, will be for mutual benefit; perhaps an auction, as has been practised lately in Dublin for South Down wool, would be the best method.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

FARMS.

SECT. 1. *Their size.*

THE size of farms varies greatly; those under tillage from one or two to fifty acres, but of the latter size there are but few; those devoted to rearing and feeding sheep are usually from one hundred to three hundred, and a few six hundred or eight hundred acres. When very rocky, they are sometimes let by the bulk, and not by the acre, but the landlord generally knows the number of acres, that each farm contains. Where farms are too small to employ a pair of horses or oxen constantly, and too large to be cultivated by the spade, the occupiers are generally in a most uncomfortable situation, and, it being too much the wish of every cottier to become a small farmer, he passes from a state of comparative comfort to one of wretchedness. A labourer should have as much ground, as will give him plenty of grass for a cow, and an abundant supply of potatoes and vegetables, but the moment he goes further, adieu

adieu to all comfort. If by great industry or some lucky circumstance he becomes possessed of as much money as will stock a farm well, then indeed he may indulge this propensity of all poor men; but mountain of all others is the place he should turn his thoughts to, and of which he may always procure any quantity on reasonable terms. Much has been said and written in England on the proper size of farms, and a great deal to very little purpose, but to expose their ignorance of the subject; the endeavouring to establish this agrarian system is something akin to the ridiculous proposals of some of our wise legislators to fix a maximum for the price of grain: how they would shake their noddles, if the farmers had meetings to fix the maximum of rent? The pocket can be the only barometer, and will settle the proper size of farms much better than these theoretical agriculturists: to hear such proposals in a country, where every man has the most unlimited controul over the disposal of his property, is astonishing; I have touched on this subject in another place.

Our farmers are generally very deficient in capital, and of course pursue a very deteriorating system of cropping; it is too much the custom, even when they do by the utmost household economy save a little money, to hoard it up, especially in guineas, instead of expending it on draining, or any other

permanent

permanent improvement. I am confident, that since the last disturbances a great part of the gold coin of the realm is hid in smoky cabins. One of the great distinctions between Irish and English peasants is, in the Irishman appearing much poorer than he really is, (though he is poor enough,) and on the contrary the Englishman shewing in his habitation a degree of comfort he does not possess, merely from the superior cleanliness of his cottage and his family. Mr. Young, in his Tour in Ireland, vol. 2. part 2d, p. 33, Irish edition, makes this very just discrimination, and I believe it will be admitted, that few persons knew the habits of the English people better; he says, "But of this food (potatoes) there is one "circumstance, which must ever recommend it; "they have a bellyful, and that, let me add, is "more than the superfluities of an Englishman "leave to his family: let any person examine "minutely into the receipt and expenditure "of an English cottage, and he will find that "tea, sugar, and strong liquors can come only "from pinched bellies. I will not assert, that "potatoes are a better food than bread and cheese; "but I have no doubt of a bellyful of one (which "the Irish almost always have) being much better "than half a bellyful of the other; still less have "I, that the milk of the Irishman is incompara-"bly better than the small beer, gin, or tea of

"the Englishman, and this even for the father; how "much better must it be for the poor infants? "Milk to them is nourishment, is health, is life. "If any one doubts the comparative plenty, which "attends the poor natives of England and Ireland, "let him attend to their meals: the sparingness, "with which our labourer eats his bread and cheese, "is well known; mark the Irishman's potatoe-bowl "placed on the floor, the whole family upon their "hams around it, devouring a quantity almost in- "credible; the beggar seating himself to it with a "hearty welcome; the pig taking his share as "readily as the wife; the cocks, hens, turkeys, geese, "the cur, the cat, and perhaps the cow, all partak- "ing of the same dish. No man can often have "been a witness to it without being convinced of "the plenty, and, I will add, the chearfulness, that "attends it."* Again he says, p. 35; "An Irish- "man and his wife are much more solicitous to "feed than to clothe their children; whereas in "England it is surprising to see the expence they "put themselves to, to deck out children, whose "principal subsistence is tea. Very many of them "in Ireland are so ragged, that their nakedness is "scarcely covered; yet they are in health and "active. As to the want of shoes and stockings I "consider

* This is much changed since that period; pigs, fowl, &c. are excluded, but the stranger is as welcome as ever.

" consider it as no evil, but a much more cleanly,
" custom than the bestiality of stockings and feet,
" that are washed no oftener than those of our
" own poor. I remarked generally, that they were
" not ill dressed on Sundays and holydays, and that
" black or dark blue was almost the universal hue."
Again in p. 36; " Their apparent poverty is greater
" than the real, for the house of a man, that is
" master of four or five cows, will scarce have any
" thing but deficiencies; nay, I was in the cabins
" of dairymen and farmers, not small ones, whose
" cabins were not at all better, or better furnished
" than those of the poorest labourer; before we
" therefore can attribute it to absolute poverty,
" we must take into the account the customs and
" inclinations of the people. In England a man's
" cottage will be filled with superfluities, before he
" possesses a cow. I think the comparison much
" in favour of the Irishman; a hog is a much more
" valuable piece of goods than a set of tea-things;
" and though his snout in a crock of potatoes is
" an idea not so poetical as

" ——— Broken tea-cups, wisely kept for shew,
" Rang'd o'er the chimney, glisten'd in a row,

" Yet will the cottier and his family, at Christmas,
" find the solidity of it an ample recompense for
" the ornament of the other."

Frequently several persons join in the occupation

of a farm, and have about ten acres each; but this wretched mode is wearing away fast; it is a perpetual source of uneasiness to both landlord and tenant.

According to the idea of farming in Leinster, there are but very few farmers in this county. In the county of Meath it is nothing uncommon for a farmer to have 100 acres of wheat, 100 acres of oats, and also 100 acres of unproductive fallow, besides meadow and grazing; we are informed, in the most excellent Survey of Meath by Mr. Thompson, that Mr. Brabazon Morris had at one time in his farm-yard, at Tankardstown near Navan, the produce of 700 acres of corn, and 100 acres of hay, and at his other farms the produce of 300 acres of hay and corn: it may be necessary to mention, that Mr. Morris is likewise one of the most extensive graziers in Meath.

Small farms generally yield more corn per acre than large ones, because the occupier almost always sows his corn in potatoe ground, that has been turned, and, what few great farmers do, pays attention to it whilst growing. That farms moderately large, and conducted on an improved system, are of more benefit to the public than small ones, I have not a doubt, and also to the proprietor, because he has usually more capital, and of course is able to lay out money in draining, liming, and otherwise improving

his

his land; he has better implements, is able and inclined to give a high price for seed-corn of superior sample; and for a variety of other reasons, that daily experience will point out, but above all from his not fallowing, and from his cultivating green crops; unless he acts thus, the larger his farm, the more he loses.

It is very much the practice for graziers to occupy a great quantity of land, and in situations very remote from each other; it is utterly impossible, that these can be as productive as if occupied by resident tenants; every grazier must know, that his herd is usually a partner, and many must feel, that they would be much more comfortable, if they did less business, and probably with more net profit. It is not to be supposed, nor is it often the case, that any man has sufficient capital for this various and extensive line of business; to one description of men it is peculiarly profitable, I mean the discounters of Limerick and Ennis, who could throw much light on this subject.

Mr. Singleton occupies a large tract of corcass ground, above 1000 acres, besides much ground of inferior quality.

Mr. Colpoys occupies as much ground, in various places, as he pays upwards of 4000*l.* a year for.

Several

Several other graziers possess great tracts of ground, especially in Burrin.*

Sir Edward O'Brien tills above 130 acres, which, for a county, where many rich graziers buy their oats and straw, is an uncommon quantity.

Sect. 2. *Farm-houses and Offices.*

The better kind of farmers and graziers have generally comfortable dwelling-houses, and convenient offices; but, if some little cleanliness is observed at the front of the house, no person can go into the yard at night with impunity. The poorer sort are usually badly lodged; their houses are mostly of stone, without any kind of cement, and of course let in the wind and rain. From the universal practice in Ireland of having a step down into the cabin, at least a foot below the level of the ground on the outside, they are almost always damp; the culpable carelessness or laziness of gentlemen or their agents, who permit this on their estates, is astonishing; if even wet clay, well tempered, was mixed among the stones, it would not only make them much warmer, but would

* To shew how little some know of their distant farms, I have been well informed, that a Connaught grazier, on being asked to go and see a farm in Burrin, before he offered a rent for it, answered, "Not I by G—; I did not see it these thirty years, and probably never will."

would help to keep the stones in their places; for, as every labourer is usually his own mason, they are often not very expert. Formerly there was scarcely a cottage, that had a chimney, and, where the landlord has built them, he has frequently found a flag or sod on the top of the chimney to keep in the smoke, which, they say, keeps them warm; this I have frequently seen myself, and, as the lower part of the cottage has for three or four feet from the ground but little smoke, they seem not to feel it, when they sit down;* but in this a great change for the better is taking place every day, and none but the most wretched are now without a chimney.

The better kind of houses are slated either with a hard thin sand-stone flag, procured in the western part of the county, and near Lough Lickin, or with slates raised near Broadford, equal to Welch ton slates. Cottages are always thatched, either with straw, sedge, rushes, heath, or too often potatoe-stalks; sedge is preferred to straw, and sixpence per square perch is paid for it standing. Whilst the tenant is the builder of his house, little improvement can be expected, and, as the landlord never repairs, and the tenant usually gets his house and

* It is remarkable, that the same custom prevails near Castlecomer and in other parts of the county of Kilkenny, where they burn nothing but that abominable, sulky-looking, suffocating Kilkenny coal.

and offices in a complete state of dilapidation, he merely patches it up for the present.

Cow-houses, even with some of the better kind of farmers, are not to be found, and other offices are perhaps equally rare. Cloacina frequently receives her offerings in the open air, and a person must tread cautiously, for, as no place of the kind is ever thought of for servants, they must do as well as they can, and it is astonishing, how little even people of property think of this necessary appendage to a well-kept house. Where straw is plenty, thatching is generally very neatly performed, and some taste shewn in the finishing of the twisted ridge, greatly superior to the Leinster method of covering it with mud or even mortar, as the first rots the straw, and becomes a bed of weeds or a nursery for houseleek, and the last generally cracks and peels off. There is always an eve-course of either hammered or some flat kind of stone, above which the thatch is, in general, evenly and neatly cut. The dunghill is placed uniformly as near the door as possible; even in towns the dunghill is permitted by lazy magistrates to accumulate almost to the top of the house, even in Ennis; it is ridiculous to say, that they cannot prevent it; some of these gentlemen should recollect their oath, and that it is not for their own advantage, or for the purpose of road-jobbing they receive their commission.

Few

Few cottages are without sallows for kishes or baskets, and which every labourer knows how to make.

The farm-houses on Lord Conyngham's estate are in general very comfortable, and have every appearance of an attentive landlord; pity there are not separate tenures, and not joint tenancy. The cottiers of Boyle Vandeleur, Esq. are generally well lodged, and several new cottages are now building, for which purpose he gives them lime gratis.

Sect. 3. *Nature of tenures, general state of leases, and particular clauses therein.*

The general term of leases is for three lives or thirty-one years; sometimes, but not often, three lives and thirty-one years; twenty-one years or one life; twenty-one years and a life. Some leases are for lives renewable for ever, by which many tenants have a better interest than the landlord. Bishops' leases are also very frequent, and much property depends on this most uncomfortable and discouraging tenure in the parishes of Dysart, Rath, Roughan, and others. Some landlords retain a power to plant on any part of their estate, on allowing the tenant the value of his land. I do not know of any other clauses not usually in leases elsewhere. Formerly much land was let in partnership, but, from a con-

viction of its pernicious tendency, many proprietors have abolished this mode, and greatly encreased not only their income, but their comfort, and that of their tenantry; for it was always a fruitful source of wrangling and litigation. Few leases are let without a clause of surrender, especially those of grazing farms, to guard against injury by a fall in the price of cattle, and, as much ground was taken when cattle brought a very high price in Cork and Limerick, it is likely the uncommon fall in the price lately will induce many to avail themselves of this clause; before I left the country, I heard many express themselves of this opinion.

Fee simple estates usually sell for twenty years purchase; freehold property for sixteen or seventeen years; bishops' leases for ten or twelve years: this marks the opinion of this wretched tenure, especially for ground wanting improvement.

A farm of corcass land in Tradree, containing about 212 acres, was lately purchased by Mr. Singleton at the astonishing price of 5*l.* per acre, and he paid eighteen years purchase; a few days after, there was offered by another person, for a lease of it, five guineas per acre, and to deposit a year's rent.

The Earl of Egremont gives no encouragement to resident improving tenants; the highest, unimproving, middleman bidder, gets every preference;

I am

I am well informed, that his Lordship loses several thousand pounds a year by this antiquated and mistaken mode. The rent of land varies so much, that it would be almost impossible to ascertain it; but, that there has been a very rapid encrease within the last ten years, is too evident to require much detail: land near Newmarket, that let ten years ago for from 20*s.* to 26*s.* per acre, now lets for 3*l.* and three guineas; in every other part of the county an equal rise has taken place. Corcass land, that now lets for five pounds, and five guineas, was let twenty years ago for 26*s.* an acre; and a large tract, the estate of Sir Edward O'Brien, is let on a lease for lives at 9*s.* 6*d.* per acre, that would now let for five guineas.

In the parish of Fenlaw, and many other places, 80 or 100 acres are taken in common, and a reserve is made in the lease, that the tenant shall work any day that he is called on, under a penalty of paying double hire for a man in his place.

Many large estates are fee farm grants. Tradree was a grant from Cromwell to General Ingoldsby, extending along the Shannon and Fergus from Clare to Bunratty, and intended to extend a mile in breadth from the river, but it has been pushed much farther into the country. Tradition says, it was the private property of Brian Boroimhe, whence the name *Tradree*, the land of the king.

SECT. 4. *Taxes or cesses paid by tenants.*

OWING to the fines for private stills, many parishes pay above 5*s.* per acre; this has been found the only method to detect them; the poor people now in their own defence inform against them, but the profits are so great, that many are still at work. There is always so much road-jobbing, that, independent of this, the cess will always be high; but if, however, the roads were well made, the people would pay chearfully for the accommodation of gentlemen. Many parts of Burrin pay no cess or other charges, for, as they were not thought of any value, they were not included in the Strafford Survey; since that they have become valuable for feeding sheep, and some even for cattle.

SECT. 5. *Proportion of working horses and oxen to the size of farms.*

VERY much of this depends on the pocket of the farmer; where they can afford it, they generally have more horses than are sufficient, or than they feed well, or keep constantly employed; if they could be prevailed on to use only two in a plough without a driver, as practised by a few gentlemen,

gentlemen, and not pursue the ridiculous mode of ploughing in the lightest soils with four horses abreast, as very generally practised, there would be a material saving. Oxen are not much used, except in the southern parts of the county, where they are worked by a few gentlemen and the better kind of farmers, four in a plough. Small farmers, and those, who have their farms in common, accommodate each other, and frequently they hire from each other. The question of the comparative value of horses and oxen remains undecided, and is likely to do so, until a fair trial is made of well-fed quick-stepped oxen, or, which is better, spayed heifers, and not of large sluggish animals driven by two, and followed by another animal as lazy as themselves, and with collars, instead of yokes and bows, the most barbarous invention that ever disgraced a civilized country.

Sect. 6. *General size of fields and inclosures.*

In those farms adapted solely to feeding sheep the fields are generally of great extent, usually with only a boundary fence; sometimes the fields are divided by stone walls, but frequently all are thrown into one by gaps made in the walls. Those in cultivation vary between one acre and twenty, but there are very few of the latter. The proportion

portion of grass-land to that of tillage is very various; in the baronies of Burrin and Inchiquin, the quantity of land under corn bears no proportion to that occupied in grazing; in Inchiquin the latter is probably at least eight to one, in Burrin considerably more; in the baronies of Tullagh, Moyferta, Ibrickan, and Clonderalaw grass lands also predominate, but still a good quantity of oats is cultivated after potatoes in burned ground; in those of Bunratty, Islands, and Corcumroe tillage and grass divide the soil more equally between them.

Sect. 7. *Nature of fences.*

In the rocky regions stone walls are necessarily the only fence; they are made very differently, according to the fancy or abilities of the proprietor; the usual way is by stones piled on each other without any order like filigree work; they are called Burrin walls, and form a very unstable barrier; a beast scratching against one of them often brings down many perches, but this, from custom, is little regarded, for in a few minutes all is built up again, and the herds and their children have little else to do. I have frequently seen the gentlemen of the country with the greatest indifference throw down a large part of these walls, to gain an entrance for their horses and dogs; I have

have even seen a rascally dog-teacher push down with his foot many perches, whilst the poor passive tenant must look on without murmuring; if a person stopped to replace any stones he had thrown down, he would be heartily laughed at. Gentlemen, and more substantial farmers, usually make double dry walls, sometimes dashed with mortar, but oftener without it; at this dry work the labourers of the country are generally very expert, and it is almost the only work they will undertake by task; if they are not watched, they do not put long stones enough across the wall to tie it, by which neglect it frequently opens in the middle, and falls to either side; these walls are usually made about five feet high, and cost about *2s. 2d.* to *2s. 4d.* per perch.* Some few put a coping of mortar, but the usual one is sods, which last but a short time, and greatly injure the ground, from which they are stripped: the wall is usually finished by throwing all the small broken stones on the top; instead of this, the large flat stones should be reserved for finishing, and, if they are left projecting a few inches, they will prevent sheep from leaping over them, and their weight will prevent their being displaced by cattle; if they are laid in mortar, it will be still better.

Walls

* If ivy was planted to these dry walls, it would strengthen them greatly, and prevent cattle from throwing them down.

Walls are sometimes so badly built, and so low, and the breed of sheep so active, that it is necessary to put a bearding of furze, briars, or thorns, which soon fall off, and leave gaps, that require constant mending.

In many parts of this county a gate is a rarity; when cattle are to be moved, a man takes down a yard or two of wall, and, when the cattle are in, builds it up again; this, even with men of property, is the general practice twice or oftener every day; I have seen, at several gentlemens' houses, dairy cows and horses, that were moved twice every day, let in and out of the field in this manner: if a grazier wishes to shew his stock to a buyer, two or three idle fellows and his wise-man are in waiting, to throw down walls, and afterwards to build them up, and the wise-man always takes care to be near enough to hear what is said; the gentlemen of the country seem to like this, and even frequently go aside to consult with this wise-man on what they ought to be much better judges of.

Great exertions are made by some gentlemen, but more by cottiers, in clearing their land from stones; for this purpose walls ten feet thick are not uncommon, and pyramids of stones of a large size remain as monuments of Irish industry, and not, like the pyramids of Egypt, everlasting proofs of human folly.

It

It is the practice with many to give their walls a considerable batter, not only as saving labour and stones, but with an idea that it strengthens them; but they do not consider that, in proportion as they deviate from a perpendicular, they become weaker; it also supposes, that every stone is of equal weight with the opposite one; as this is not the case, the heavy one thrusts out the lighter, and tumbles down a large part of the wall.

Ditches are generally very badly made; some few gentlemen are now beginning to turn their thoughts to this very necessary and comfortable improvement, but they seldom make them deep enough, or of sufficient breadth, and sheep and cattle run up them with ease; and, as they are usually faced with sods, and too broad in the bottom and shallow, they are torn down by the feet of cattle, in search of the grass produced by these sods. Ditches should be made at least seven feet wide at the top, and, if the ground will admit it, should be at least five feet deep, and not broader at the bottom than just to allow a shovel to clear out any weeds or earth, that may accumulate in them, and, if water runs in them, the confinement of the stream will augment its force, and help to keep them always clear. If these directions are complied with, I would advise the ditch to be planted entirely with two-year-old seedling forest

trees, without any thorn quicks; they would not only afford equal shelter, but would be very valuable hereafter; if they were planted at a foot or less asunder, they would always afford various cuttings for farming purposes, and a sufficient quantity might be left for timber, to which they would grow at two feet asunder; for, as they would have air on two sides, they would not be injuriously drawn; they should be laid in like quicks, and the best of the surface-mould of the ditch carefully preserved for them. Tenants, who have terminable tenures, should register them, by which means, at the end of their lease, they will be either paid their full value, have a liberty of cutting them down, or get a renewal from their landlord rather than have his fences injured. In exposed situations I would recommend beech, but, in general, ash will be found the most generally useful.

In the neighbourhood of Killaloe, the fences are mostly made of furze, (ulex Europæus,) which gives an appearance to the country not unlike that of some parts of Wexford.

Sir Edward O'Brien has most excellent gates through the entire of his demesne and farms; the piers are single hammered stones, and the gates are of oak, about four feet high, and nine feet broad, with spring fastenings, that enable a horseman to open them at either side without alighting; the piers are about six feet high.

In

In Tradree the fences are generally ditches, but very few are planted. I should imagine timber sallows could be planted in the corcass ditches to great profit.

Sect. 8. *Mode of draining.*

This *sine qua non* of the improvement of wet lands is but very little practised; some of the rich corcass lands, that let for five guineas an acre, are greatly injured by stagnant water.

In the eastern and western extremities of the county, where immense tracts of ground could be reclaimed, it is scarcely ever practised; some trifling attempts have been made by a few gentlemen, but in general with little skill, and too often by that worst and most wasteful of all methods, open drains. There is less excuse for this here than in most other counties, for stones abound in almost every place, where it is necessary. Much ground could be reclaimed by lowering or enlarging the outlets of the numerous lakes, with which this county is adorned; Lough Tedane near Corrofin could be lowered for a very moderate sum, by which many hundred acres of choice ground could be gained; it is not only the part at present covered with water, that comes under this description, but the ground on every side, all meadow, is frequently spoiled by floods kept back from want of enlarging the outlet,

or removing obstructions caused by some insignificant eel-weirs, and I cannot too forcibly condemn the supineness of magistrates, who permit the erection of such nuisances; but if they do not affect any of their own grounds, they pass them by with the most perfect indifference. There is scarcely any of the other numerous lakes, that could not be as easily lowered, and as equally benefited. In some few situations, perhaps, stones for making drains could not be readily procured; it fortunately happens, that here in general there is a sod of sufficient adhesiveness to form a cover for them.

To those, who may imagine such covering would not last for any length of time, it may be necessary to state, that in many parts of Ireland and England drains are now running freely, that were made before the birth of any man now living; but, as the method, though exceedingly simple, is little, if at all, known in this county, it would be adviseable to procure a man from the counties of Meath or Dublin, where these kinds of drains are better made than in any other part of Ireland.

Sect. 9. *Nature of Manures.*

Limestone-gravel, that inestimable manure, is to be had in a great variety of places, and is used

used in a few; but there is not that use made of it, that its value deserves. Lime also, which can be had in the greater part of this county, is but little used. I suggested to a gentleman the great benefit he would receive by using it copiously on a mountain farm he was reclaiming; he seemed astonished I should propose such an expensive mode, *for he would be obliged to draw the lime very near half a mile.* Limestone was discovered by Mr. Donald Stewart some years since in the mountains of Slieve-on-Oir, on the estate of Henry Molony, Esq., yet I dare say, that to this day no use is made of it, and it is highly probable Mr. Molony never heard of any such thing. Mr. O'Brien of Cratilow has used a good deal of lime with great effect. Mr. O'Sullivan of Limerick allows his tenants on a farm, which he rents from Mr. Fitzgibbon, near Bridgetown, 3*l.* 5*s.* per acre for liming with sixty barrels; hear this ye proprietors of estates, who will neither lime yourselves, nor encourage your tenants to do what a spirited citizen of Limerick has done. Astonishing improvements have been made in the neighbourhood of Killaloe, especially in the mountains between that and Broadford, by means of marle, inexhaustible quantities of which may be procured in the Shannon. It is raised by boats, and drawn into heaps on the shore, where it generally

generally lies until dry, and at leisure times is drawn to the land; about fifty loads are used to the acre. The course of crops after this manure is usually; 1st, potatoes; 2d, barley; 3d, oats; 4th, oats; then manure again, and pursue nearly the same wretched course: some variation does occur; they sometimes sow a crop of wheat, and perhaps two of potatoes in succession, but in general the first is the favourite course, perhaps with the addition of one or two crops of oats. An ancestor of Mr. Head of Derry was the first, who introduced the practice of dredging for it in deep water. The effects of this valuable manure in the production of the finest crops, added to the beauty of the undulating surface, and fine views of the Shannon and opposite country, render the ride from Broadford to Killaloe highly interesting. Marle has been used with great effect near Kilnooney, where it is raised in the valley near the old church, but it is not esteemed so much as that raised in the Shannon; it has also been raised between Feacle and Loughgraney in the barony of Tullagh. It is probable it may be found in many other places, but this is not the county for agricultural exertions.

A large and valuable mass of limestone occurs in the middle of the town of Toomgraney, but, though it is a nuisance, little or no use is made of

of it as a manure, although it is the very kind, that is wanting on the adjoining mountains.*

Sea-sand has been used with great effect by Mr. Morony near Miltown-Malbay, and by many others near the sea-coast in great quantities; it was not so much valued, until one proprietor of the shore charged five shillings for every hundred loads, and another a guinea, since which the demand has encreased; but that system, of running out the land after a manuring, (and which is the ruin of the agriculture of Ireland), is always pursued here; about 300 loads are used to the acre, which will be sometimes drawn about a mile for 16*s.* 3*d.*

Sea-weed (different varieties of algæ) is another valuable manure, of which large quantities are used for potatoes, followed by a crop of barley or wheat; it is frequently brought up the Fergus by boats to Ennis, and carried into the country upwards of four miles; it costs about four guineas per acre; the potatoes are usually planted first, and get this first covering, and by degrees, as the weed can be drawn, it is spread over this, and covered by a second spitting and shovelling; when they have the weed in time, they plant the potatoes on it at once.

Ashes,

* Two very large thorns, and a large lime, grow out of the fissures of these rocks quite exposed to the western breeze, and to all appearance growing without any earth.

Ashes, procured by burning the surface of ground, form a very large share of the manure of the county, especially of small farmers and cottiers; if they could be persuaded to crop lightly, and cultivate alternate green crops, this method of procuring manure would be a blessing to the country; but at present it is only the prelude to the most exhausting and disgraceful system, that could possibly be pursued, and in which even men of good education and ample means of instruction outvie even the most ignorant peasant.

The high prices given for rape-seed for some years back have induced many, even poor farmers, to break up moory ground and bog for this purpose, but scarcely have they ever thought of draining it; and in a few years, from this neglect, and not using any calcareous substances, it reverts to its original state of unproductiveness: I have seen many situations, where a few shillings would have accomplished this, but they had no resident landlord or enlightened agent to direct them. The farmers and cottiers are perfectly sensible of the value of manures, and therefore use great exertions to procure them, frequently to the very great injury of the high roads, the sides of which they generally dig away, and form deep trenches on each side, whilst the magistrates and conservators ride carelessly by. For potatoes they also in some places

places make much use of a plant they call *coonagh*, which they gather, after the water has retired from lakes and turloghs; it is usually carried on the backs of women, boys, and girls, and lasts for only one crop.

But the manure of all others the most beneficial, the most permanent, and that can be had at the least expence, and most certain in its effects, is irrigation; yet it is scarcely known. Sir Edward O'Brien has lately prepared some ground for watering according to the expensive Gloucestershire method, and is now enlarging his designs. The Rev. Frederick Blood has laid out some ground for this purpose, also Mr. George Adams, which he mows twice every year; Mr. William Adams has formerly made some random efforts, but abandoned it. I laid out a small field for Bindon Blood, Esq. at Riverston; it was the worst of his ground, and though he set the farm, before I had an opportunity of cutting off the water from the mountain, that injured it greatly, yet the produce was astonishing, though it got only the water of February and March; and though confessed so by the present tenant, yet any thing new being considered by him as an innovation, and a thing our fathers *did very well without*, he regrets greatly, that the levels are not all filled in, and, to shew his contempt for

such *new fangled whims*, has not turned a drop of water on them this winter (1807), and, I am informed, does intend not to do so any more. There are very few parts of the county, especially the eastern and western districts, that could not take advantage of this blessing. Mr. Molony of Kiltannon, and Captain Brown, who possess large tracts of mountain in the barony of Tullagh, which they now set for half-a-guinea an acre, probably much less, could, from the abundant supply, irrigate several hundred acres, and, instead of half-a-guinea, make their ground worth at least four guineas an acre, and at a very moderate expence, probably not more than three guineas per acre. On Lord Conyngham's and Mr. Westby's estates great improvements might be made, but the finest situation I have any where seen is the mountain of Callan (I believe the Marquis of Thomond's or Lord Conyngham's estate); there, the supply of water is equal to many hundred acres, but the proprietor knows little of the capabilities of his estate, nor indeed does any gentleman, that I have met with; they seem perfectly satisfied, pursuing the old dog-trot method of their grandfathers, with that rise in their rent-roll, which fortuitous circumstances have made. If the proprietors of land were aware of the value of this improvement, and with what

what ease they might accomplish it, they would not let such sources of wealth flow unheeded to the Shannon, or the Atlantic ocean, and, instead of considering the streams from the mountains a nuisance, (as they are with their neglect,) they would find them one of the most certain and profitable sources of emolument in the whole range of agricultural improvements. The expence of this great improvement is usually very moderate, and, once accomplished, it nearly ceases, for one man can attend a large tract of it; the effects of the best manure are soon worn out, but this, for less than the cost of one manuring, lasts for ever, and is much more valuable than the richest dunging. It is necessary to caution those, who have an inclination to adopt this improvement, that their ground must be free from small ridges, and that, the nearer it approaches to an inclined plane, the more perfect the improvement will be, and executed at much less expence; but I would advise them not to think of it, unless they are determined not to listen to their old-light friends and interested stewards, who usually set their faces against the adoption of any improvement they do not understand, and of which they are not the first movers, and to abandon all idea of it, if they will not go through with it with spirit and steadiness; half measures will answer no purpose but to bring the practice into dis-

repute, lose money, and gratify ignorance and prejudice. In the many places, in which I have conducted this favourite branch of my profession, I have found, that very few have acted either with credit to me, or regard to their own interest; they very soon grew tired of the expence, and were put out of conceit by their wise-man or some very wise friend, and left off when they should have gone on: even after the work had been finished it has been totally neglected, and one gentleman near Dublin complains, that "watering was of little use to his land;" yet, except the first season, not a drop of water has been turned on the land since it was finished, upwards of seven years ago.

As lime is generally the only manure, that is carried to any distance, it becomes an object to have it well burned, and carried in that state, as it is much lighter; good limestone loses about one-third of its weight in burning, and, as three hundred weight of good stone will make about a barrel of lime, a great saving in the carriage may be made. The kilns of this country are generally very badly built; they are usually too wide at the mouth, and too shallow, which helps to consume too much fuel; they should be made half as wide in the middle as they are high, and the width of the mouth should be one-fourth, or less, of the height; a kiln twelve feet high, and six feet wide at the belly, will, if properly

properly attended, burn about sixteen barrels each day. A man can make good wages at 1½*d.* per barrel for breaking and burning, if the stones are laid down for him at the kiln; this is a much better method than breaking by the day, but he must be watched, to oblige him to break the stone small enough. When lime-kilns are constructing, great care should be taken that they are built substantially, and well backed with sand, to prevent the heat from escaping; sand answers this purpose much better than clay or earth of any kind, as it does not, by sometimes shrinking, and sometimes swelling, form chinks, which are frequently seen in kilns, and seem to be unheeded. Every lime-kiln should have a parapet wall, to prevent the wind from affecting the burning; dry stone-work, or even sods will answer, and, if a conical covering was erected, it would not only save fuel, but would prevent the bursting of kilns of this shape, when they are not drawn, before heavy rains fall, which frequently happens; if not drawn immediately, they should be carefully covered. Robert St. George, Esq. of the county of Kilkenny, has adopted a kiln of a very different shape from the above; it is a cylinder of ten feet on a small pointed cone of five feet; it burned twenty-five barrels of lime in the same time, that one of the usual oval kilns burned only twenty-one barrels;

it

it was found easier to burn the stone in it, and much more easily drawn, the lime falling quickly, whilst it adhered to the sides of the others; a plate representing this kiln may be seen in the Survey of Kildare lately published.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

GENERAL SUBJECTS.

SECT. 1. *Population.*

THIS branch of every Statistical Survey must, I fear, remain very imperfect; after a great deal of trouble, and many inquiries, I found nothing satisfactory, or that would lead to any thing better than probable conjecture, and of what use could conjecture be, but to lead people astray? I found I could very nearly ascertain the Roman Catholic population, thanks to the liberality of the clergy of that persuasion; but those of any other I found dumb, Dr. Duigenan had laid them under his interdiction.

The most useful tendency of the inquiry is easily answered in the affirmative; the certainty of the rapid encrease is beyond the cavils of the most jaundiced croaker. The population of this county has been estimated by Dr. Beaufort at 96,000 souls, but I conjecture it is considerably above that number at present; vast tracts of mountain have been reclaimed since the publication of Dr. Beaufort's

fort's Memoir in 1792, and even his account was taken from Mr. Bushe's tables published in 1777, who allows only 5½ persons to each house; the Catholic clergymen, who certainly have a good right to know it, were unanimous in stating the population at least 6½, some 7½ to a house; probably the whole population may now be 120,000. But what use in conjecture? And, until some means are contrived by government, that will not alarm the lower orders of the people, it can be nothing better; every thing I have seen on the subject, except the Essay lately published by Dr. Whitelaw, deserves little notice. But, thanks to the food, upon which our people subsist, there can be no danger of a failure, and, whilst the root of plenty is so easily procured, and a family of six persons maintained upon less than an acre of ground, a man has no apprehension of poverty; consequently early marriages will and do take place, (especially as we are not cursed with that badge of English slavery, poor laws,) and children are little or no burden; the plenty of potatoes and milk is such, that the children are almost always eating; let those ignorant cavillers, who say that potatoes and milk is not nourishing food, look at the children, generally in rags, but with every appearance and reality of ruddy health, and, if that is not sufficient, let them attend a foot ball or hurling match, and see the superiority of potatoes and milk over gross cheese

cheese and bad beer. In the neighbourhood of Six-mile-bridge the population is very great, even of people in good circumstances; for, in a circle of about five miles diameter, upwards of twenty-eight respectable families reside almost constantly, and, except a little bickering about road-jobbing, keep up an intimacy.

SECT. 2. *Number and size of Towns and Villages.*

ENNIS, the capital of the county of Clare, is estimated by the best informed of the inhabitants to contain about 9,000 souls; twenty years ago it was much more; the Assizes and Quarter Sessions are held there;* the cottages for poor people are much better now than twenty years since, but the morals of the people deplorably worse, for the Rev. Mr. Barret, titular Dean of Killaloe, informs me, that formerly there were upwards of 2,000 communicants of his persuasion in Ennis, but at present not more than 900; this great decrease therefore cannot be imputed entirely to a decrease in population, nor, I am certain, to a preference for any other mode of worship.

Killaloe, Kilrush, Innistymon, Six-mile-bridge,

* The Sessions, held in this county in October, are at a very inconvenient time, for it is during the great fair of Ballinasloe, when the greater part of the respectable landholders are there.

Corrofin, Kilfenora, Skarrif, and Miltown, are the principal towns and villages.

Kilrush is rising fast into some consequence, and, if want of capital did not prevent it, would export many articles of agricultural produce, that are now bought on commission for the Limerick merchants. A good quantity of corn and butter is bought by Mr. Patterson, a very active and intelligent inhabitant, who has been of the utmost benefit to Kilrush and the adjoining country. If houses were built in favourable situations on the sea-shore, many, who go to other places, would make this their summer residence, because they could have a daily conveyance by water from Limerick, and many parts of Tipperary, but they complain, that ground for houses is kept up so high, that they are obliged to go elsewhere. Between the Revenue house and Scattery-island, on a sloping bank to the Shannon, there is one of the finest situations for a crescent of houses, that, I am convinced, would take remarkably well. I presume to think that, instead of demanding a high ground rent, it would be greatly for the interest of the proprietor even to make a present of ground plots, to induce people to build. This would not only cause a rapid rise in the rents of the adjacent country, but, by creating a market for the consumption of produce, would extend this rise in the value of land very far into the

the country. I regret I am not able to state the encrease of exports and imports of this port; had I received an answer to letters I wrote to those best able to answer my queries, or a personal answer from the rector, my statement would not be thus imperfect.*

Miltown, through the exertions of the proprietor, Mr. Morony, is likely to become one of the best inhabited parts of the county; a few years since there was scarcely a house but his own, but now there may be seen in every direction a great number of neat lodges; and, as he is daily adding to the comforts and elegance of the situation, I trust and hope he will be amply repaid for his spirited exertions; he should be a pattern to other proprietors in this and an adjoining county, who, from a mistaken policy in demanding high rents, drive away those, who would improve their estates. Mr. Morony's gardens are amongst the best in the county; though close to the shore of the Atlantic, they produce the greatest abundance of the choicest kinds of fruits and vegetables; but any part of a tree,

* I have been accused by this gentleman of not making a personal application; I went twice to Kilrush for that purpose, but was not fortunate enough to meet him; my mode was generally to send printed queries before I had a personal communication, that the gentlemen might be in some degree prepared, and I had every reason to hope, that the laudable designs of the Dublin Society would not have been sacrificed to etiquette.

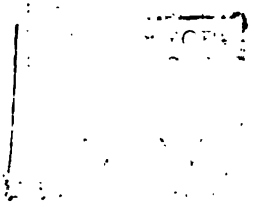
that rises above the wall, is immediately destroyed; the German tamarisk (tamarix Germanica) seems to stand this situation better than any other tree.

A very handsome church has been lately built at Miltown; but, though it was ridiculed at first as too large, it is found now to be much too small for the great accession of genteel inhabitants; the seats have been arranged, as they should be in every church; there are no churlish pews, but every person sits where he chooses; they all face one way towards the communion table, and are certainly much better adapted to a place of worship than pews.* Mr. Morony is now building at Spanish-point elegant and commodious hot and cold baths, and a hotel capable of containing upwards of sixty single beds, with spacious assembly rooms, &c. &c. Races are often run here, as another amusement for the lodgers.

A great natural curiosity may be seen near Mr. Hare's house, called the *puffing hole*; it spouts the water to a considerable height with great force, and, when the sun shines, forms at each emission of the water a beautiful iris; there are also several others on this coast, at Doolen, Baltard, Cloghan-sevan, &c.

Six-mile-bridge

* In the month of April 1806, I went to Drogheda church, but after walking up one aisle, and down another, and encountering the broad stare of the congregation, I found there was no admittance for a stranger, and was obliged to walk out of the church; on relating this, I was informed it was not uncommon in that church.



DISTANCES IN IRISH MILES.

	Broadford.	Callaghan's mills.	Clare.	Corrofin.	Ennis.	Feacle.	Innistymon.	Killaloe.	Kilfenora.	Kilrush.	Lighthouse.	Limerick.	Liscanor.	Miltown-Malbay.	Newmarket.	O'Brien's-bridge.	Quin.	Six-mile-bridge.	Skarriff.	Tomgraney.	Tullagh.
Broadford		3	14⅛	20⅞	15¼	10⅛	28	9⅛	26¾	37⅛	54½	8⅛	33	32⅜	10½	6¼	9⅞	7	9⅛	9	6¼
Callaghan's mills			12⅜	17⅞	12¼	7⅛	25	12⅛	23¼	35⅛	53	11¼	30	29⅛	10½	9¼	7¼	7¼	7¼	6⅛	3¼
Clare				9¼	1⅞	16⅛	14⅛	23¼	15½	23	40⅜	17⅛	19⅛	18⅛	4⅛	20½	5⅛	9¼	18⅞	18⅛	10¼
Corrofin					7⅜	19¼	8¼	29½	6½	31⅜	44⅛	26¼	13¼	15⅜	14	27¼	12⅜	18⅛	23¼	22⅞	14¼
Ennis						14	19¼	23¼	13⅛	24	41⅛	19⅛	17¼	17⅛	6½	21½	6⅛	11	17⅞	17⅛	9
Feacle							26⅛	12⅛	25¼	37⅞	55¼	18¼	31⅛	31⅛	15	16¼	11⅞	14⅛	4⅞	5⅛	6⅛
Innistymon								36½	4¼	23½	35¼	32⅛	5	6¼	19¼	34¼	19⅛	23¼	30⅛	29⅞	21¼
Killaloe									35¼	46¼	63⅛	10⅞	41½	40⅞	19⅛	5	19⅛	16⅛	7¼	6⅛	14¼
Kilfenora										27⅛	39⅞	32⅛	7⅛	10⅞	20½	33	18⅛	24⅛	29⅛	28¼	20⅛
Kilrush											17⅛	40⅛	28½	16¼	27⅛	43⅛	28⅛	32⅛	41¼	41⅛	33
Lighthouse												57¼	40¼	29	45	60¼	45½	49½	59½	58⅛	50⅜
Limerick													37⅛	36½	12¼	7⅛	14¼	8⅛	17¼	17⅛	14⅜
Liscanor														11¼	24¼	39¼	24⅛	28¼	35¼	34⅞	26¼
Miltown-Malbay															23¼	38⅛	23⅜	27¼	35	34¼	26⅛
Newmarket																16¼	4	4⅛	17½	17	9⅛
O'Brien's-bridge																	16¼	13⅛	12½	11¼	12⅛
Quin																		6⅛	14	13¼	5¼
Six-mile-bridge																			14¼	14¼	8¼
Skarriff																				0⅛	8¼
Tomgraney																					8⅛
Tullagh																					

Six-mile-bridge was formerly of some note, but is now in a rapid decline; it has the skeleton of a beautiful market-house, the ruins of an oil-mill, and an extensive flour-mill almost in ruins, and quite idle (1807,) but I understand it is likely to be at work soon. It is the estate of the Earl of Egremont, but is rented on a lease for ever.

Newmarket is advancing fast in building and every kind of improvement, but it has the unusual benefit of a resident and attentive landlord.

Sect. 3. *Habitations, fuel, food, and clothing of the lower rank, and their general cost.*

HABITATIONS.

The cottages of the labouring classes are almost universally built of stone without any cement; some few in the mountains and bogs are constructed very badly with sods; the couples are about two feet asunder, and support what are called ribberies or stretchers; across these the small branches of trees are laid, and on these thin tough sods, which support the thatch, and into which the straw, after being wound up in handfuls, is thrust by an iron instrument like a dibble. Frequently heath, fern, rushes, sedge, and sometimes potatoe-stalks, are used instead of straw; the potatoe-stalks last only

only one winter, and are a wretched covering. They have generally a step down into them, which causes them to be always damp, and, as the dunghill is usually near the door, it adds to the damp filthy state of the cabins. On this damp floor the straw or hay, on which they sleep, is generally spread, and often the pig and dog partake of the same bed; as they are fond of having the smoke about them, it adds to the filthy appearance of their habitations; yet out of these huts issue the sinewy arms, that chiefly man the British fleet and armies. It is vain to expect any alteration, until the gentlemen and farmers set an example of cleanliness about their own dwellings, which, though they may have a handsome approach and plantations in the front, are, in general, in a most filthy state near the kitchen door.

FUEL

Is universally turf or peat, which abounds in almost every part of the county, except a part of Burrin, which is supplied on the sea-coast from Cunnamara on the opposite side of the bay of Galway; a boat-load, containing from forty to sixty back-loads, costs from 20*s.* to 28*s.*; in other parts of this rocky country, remote from the sea, the inhabitants are greatly distressed for firing, which must ever remain a bar to any great increase of population.

A labourer

A labourer will cut as much turf in two days, as will serve his family for a year, and his wife and children save it; the carriage home is generally performed by placing two small baskets on a horse's back; or, where they live very near the bog, or the ground is rocky or very soft, the family carry it on their backs, and it is astonishing what a weight some of these little creatures will carry. The price paid for liberty to cut turf is very various, and though in some places, where it is becoming scarce, a high price is demanded, and must be paid, yet in general it is reasonable. In some places hand turf, or that made into rolls with the hand, is used, and makes a more lasting and hotter fire than that cut with the slane. Where turf abounds, it is seldom cut to the bottom of the bog, and the best turf is left behind; this is also occasioned by the very general neglect of draining, and surely, where a high price is charged, it is incumbent on the proprietor to drain the bog, to give the poor people the full value of their money. Too often the proprietor permits his bog to be cut into holes, which not only helps to keep the bog always wet, but the chief expence in reclaiming bog is occasioned by the necessity of filling in these holes. Agents to estates are here in general highly culpable; they never think, nor care, that in the next generation

neration many estates will be but thinly inhabited, from a want of this necessary of life.

In the parish of Kilraghtish, and other places, no price is paid for the bank, from which the turf is cut, as is the practice in other counties; but six guineas per acre are charged for the ground, on which the turf is spread; this ridiculous custom occasions the turf to be badly saved, and in wet seasons often lost; for the poor people, to save this expence, heap their wet turf on each other, and lose a great deal of time by frequent turning. In other places ground for spreading on is let for 6*s.* per square perch, (48*l.* per acre.) Some charge different prices for certain dimensions per agreement: for hand-turf, eight guineas per acre are charged for both spreading-ground and turf-bank. In most places the turf, after being cut and thrown up on the bank, is carried away in barrows, and spread by women and children, and the drying, called footing, continued until it is clamped. Some throw up the turf on the bank to a man, who receives it on a pitchfork; he flings it seven or eight yards to another man; this is repeated, until it has reached the drying ground, and injures the turf greatly.

FOOD,

Scarcely any other than potatoes and milk; this last not always in winter, but in greater plenty than formerly.

On the sea-coast a good deal of fish is eaten; but a rocky unsafe shore, exposed to Atlantic storms, debars them in many places from catching that quantity they might, and with which the sea abounds; they are also unable to purchase the proper apparatus for fishing in deep water.

Almost every cottier has a small garden, chiefly occupied with cabbages; some few sow onions, parsnips, &c.; but the standing and favourite dish is potatoes and milk: to prove, that this food is perfectly sufficient to enable them to undergo the hardest labour, we need only observe the quantity of work performed, when they work by task, and the astonishing feats of activity and strength they perform at their amusements of hurling or foot-ball. The labourers, who migrate to England every harvest, shew how equal to the hardest work they are, and, so far from living on the heavy cheese and other gross food, which an Englishman is always cramming into his mouth, they live nearly as sparingly as they do at home; otherwise they could not bring home so much money, the accumulation

of which is their only inducement to leave their own country; they certainly can have none in the suavity of their English companions in labour, and shew in a very flattering light the superiority of our too often despised countrymen in every amiable trait of character; in Ireland you will never hear any of those illiberal remarks, that poor Paddy must hourly bear in England. As Mr. Young, in his Tour in Ireland, says, "they have nothing of that incivility of sullen silence, in which so many Englishmen seem to wrap themselves up, as if retiring within their own importance."

In the neighbourhood of Dromoland and Quin the men are remarkably tall and well made, yet I cannot learn, that they live better than their smaller neighbours.

Much ground is let to poor people, and to others, living in towns, to burn for potatoes; the price has encreased with the demand, and some ground lets so high as 8*l.* per acre, and for various lesser sums down to 4*l.*; frequently the same price is paid for a second crop. The quantity consumed by a family of six people, which is greatly under the average of each house, is usually about twenty-two stone per week, which, at 128 stone to the barrel, and fifteen barrels to the acre, makes the quantity of ground necessary for this consumption to be something less than an acre; but, as the quantity produced

produced is often not so great, it may be fairly stated, that an acre is fully sufficient, including a pig or two, dog, cat, fowl, and not a little to strangers, who never meet with a refusal, if they come at meal times.

CLOTHING.

The usual material for the men is frize, made at home by the wife or daughters, who all make a sufficient quantity for the family, and frequently have some to sell; it is much better than that made by manufacturers for shops. The petticoats of the women are often of this kind, but more frequently of coarse flannel dyed a bad red, which they also generally make and dye themselves; sometimes they wear short jackets, not unlike spencers, of the same materials and colour, when about their business; but, when they go to the chapel or to the market, they frequently wear dimity and other cotton fabrics, and cotton or stuff gowns, which they purchase from shop-keepers or pedlars at fairs or markets. In the western part of this county, and about Corrofin, they knit a great quantity of coarse yarn stockings, which are the general medium of barter for what they want; sometimes they bring coarse linens, called bandle-cloth, canvas for bags and sacks, butter, eggs, yarn, &c. &c., the price of

which also is usually laid out with the dealers for necessaries; money for these small articles is seldom brought home: happily, as yet, very little is thrown away on tea and sugar. Hats made in the country, chiefly near Skarriff, and which cost from about 3*s.* 9½*d.* to 5*s.* 5*d.* are worn by the men; the women seldom wear any thing but a handkerchief on their heads; in wet weather the hood of the cloak protects them. Shoes, generally of leather badly tanned, are sold for, single pumps 6*s.*; turned pumps for beaux, 7*s.* to 9*s.*; with two soles, 8*s.* 8*d.* Waistcoat generally of frize, sometimes of cottons of different kinds. Breeches of frize are usually worn by old men; the young men wear generally thicksets, or sheepskin prepared at home. Wigs of wool, from 1*s.* 7½*d.* to 2*s.* 8½*d.* On week days, at their daily labour, they are in general but badly clad, but on Sundays they make a very clean and respectable appearance.

The men frequently in summer, but the women almost always, go without shoes or stockings, and so tenacious are they of this custom, that it is with the greatest difficulty they can be persuaded to wear them, when taken into gentlemens' houses; and indeed in almost every house is this filthy habit permitted, or viewed with indifference by the lady, and I have seen even some young ladies not averse themselves to appearing in shoes without stockings. In every part of this county the clothes (I mean those

these of the lower rank) are washed by beating them in a river on a large smooth stone with a flat board, called a beetle; for this purpose they will stand for hours up to their knees in water, even in cold weather; after this they run to the fire; this causes the legs to be full of black and blue spots, and to swell to a great size; these were the kind that partial Twiss described in his tour, as the standard of Irish legs; but our country-women, with the assistance of their friends at the earthen-ware manufactories in England, were not long in his debt.

SECT. 4. *Prices of wages, labour, and provisions.*

IN some parts of the county, where a labourer is constantly employed, he gets 8*d.* per day; if only occasionally, or at harvest, 10*d.* to 1*s.* 1*d.* and diet; in other places he receives 6½*d.* per day through the year, if occasionally, 6½*d.* and diet; the rates in others are 10*d.* if constantly employed; some persons, who give small plots of ground and a cabin, with potatoe ground at the rate, for which land let ten years ago, pay 8*d.*, some 6*d.*, and some only 5*d.*; Mr. Singleton of Quinville pays his cottiers only 5*d.* through the year, but they have bargains of ground, that make their wages at least equal to 10*d.* Stating the rate of wages will by no means ascertain what the labourer receives, for, as in the case of Mr. Singleton,

Singleton, they have an equivalent in land, and frequently those, who have the highest nominal wages, are charged enormously high for their potatoe ground, and perhaps a wretched cabin, that they built themselves. Very little labour is performed by task, sometimes threshing is done, but complaints are always made of their leaving much corn in the straw; the labourers, from not knowing the value of task-work, are averse to it; were it as well known as it deserves, almost every species of work would be executed in this manner; it would be for the mutual benefit of both employer and labourer; one would have more than twice the quantity of work done in the same time, and the other would be able to earn nearly twice his usual wages; the chief difficulty would be to prevent the execution of the work in an improper manner, but this could be easily prevented by standing by, and instructing a man in making a perch or two as it ought to be, and insisting steadily on the execution conformably to the pattern. Whenever I perceive any attempt at trick, I always have the ditch, or whatever it may be, levelled, and make the task-man, at his own expence, remake it according to the plan; this seldom fails of effecting the purpose, but, as it frequently happens, that unforeseen difficulties occur in the execution, such as large stones, strong springs of water, &c. &c, in such

such cases a liberal allowance should be made. It should also be insisted on, and enforced by a stoppage of wages, that the work shall be executed at a fixed period, and that a certain number of men shall be constantly employed; otherwise, as they think they are sure of the job, they will go elsewhere, and return to their task-work, only when they cannot get work at any other place; but still an allowance should be made for continued wet weather, or other unavoidable obstacles. Many, who are not accustomed to this mode, may imagine, if they see a labourer earn perhaps twice as much as his usual hire, that a great abatement should be made in his agreement; where this pitiful idea prevails, all thoughts of task-work had better be abandoned, and the old lazy system pursued. It is policy as well as justice, that a labourer should receive higher wages for greater exertions; besides, in a country, where this practice is unknown, if the labourer earned even a little more than he ought, it will help to establish the practice; at a future period it may be brought down to an equitable standard, and competition amongst the labourers will assist to fix it. That labourers do not receive in general a sufficient remuneration for active exertions, I am perfectly convinced; we often hear of such and such gentlemen giving the usual rate of the country, and a cabin and potatoe ground, and grass for a cow. There

are numbers in the city of Dublin, I am certain, that think these are always given gratis; but so far from it, the gentleman gives perhaps a few sticks of small value towards building a cabin, and the cottier finds every thing else; the potatoe ground some waste spot worth little, and that probably takes many days of hard labour to clear; yet the cottier is charged for this at least as high a rent as for the best acre on the estate. The grass for a cow is generally some worn-out or wet boggy pasture, over-stocked, and charged equally high as the potatoe ground; yet these are the favors, for which the landed proprietors expect the most active labour, and it frequently happens, that the poor man, after all his exertions, for some trifling omission gets warning to quit on the first of May. That there are many exceptions to the above mean-spirited landlords, I have had great pleasure in witnessing, and would feel great pleasure in particularising them, but, as it would appear invidious, I desist. In the year 1800 potatoes sold for 6*d.* or 8*d.* per stone by retail; by the barrel they were sold something cheaper; even at that price they were hard to be got, as the demand for those for seed, and an opinion that they would be dearer in summer, kept up the price; (in Dublin at that period they were 2*s.* 4*d.* per stone;) now (1807) they are for 2½*d.* and 3*d.* per stone by retail; which is reckoned dear.

House-

House-carpenter, from 3*s.* 9½*d.* to 4*s.* 4*d.* per day; hedge carpenter, 2*s.* 2*d.* and diet per day; thatcher, 3*s.* 3*d.* and diet per day; herdsman and shepherd by agreement.

Ploughmen, who are expert at skinning ground for burning, receive usually 3*s.* 3*d.* per day and diet; they find their own plough, and the farmer finds two horses and a driver; their plough, though of the very rudest workmanship and materials, (generally small rough birch,) performs the work equal to any I ever saw at any of the ploughing matches of agricultural societies; they take a sod about ten inches broad, and from two to five inches deep, as they are desired; the ploughman, that I saw executing this work, was in such demand, that it was necessary to bespeak him some time before he was wanting; he works very quick, making the horses go at a smart rate, and takes great care to keep the wing of his share and coulter always very sharp, which is a great contrast to the general mode of the country, and indeed of Ireland, for the coulters are frequently an inch broad in the cutting part.

At Miltown-Malbay labour is 6½*d.* per day, the rent 4*l.* per acre for ground, and 6*l.* for the grass of a cow; what an unfeeling disproportion! Thirty years ago the rate of wages was 6*d.* per day; the grass of a cow was then about thirty shillings, rent of a cabin and an acre of ground, much better than at present, 30*s.*

Now the rate of labour is only 6*d.*, or at the utmost 8*d.*, grass of a cow from three guineas to five guineas, a cabin and an acre of potatoe-ground four pounds, frequently much more. I need not enter into calculations to shew the depression of the lower classes of the people; the above comparison is worth a volume of the most laboured deductions. I am happy to have the authority of so competent a judge as Mr. Young, who, in his Tour in Ireland in 1779, second part of vol. 2, gives a detail of oppressions, which, I am sorry to say, are too frequent at this day, and I can assure Mr. Young he is by no means a favourite in this county; *he told too many tales about middle-men.*

The bread of this county is, in general, exceedingly good, but seldom has a sufficient quantity of salt put into it, and is too crumbly, owing to some mismanagement in the making; this fault may be generally found all through Munster and Connaught, and indeed in most country towns in Ireland.

Sect. 5. *State of Tithe—its general amount.*

The rates of tithe vary according to the disposition of the clergyman or his tithe-proctor, and are a tolerable barometer of the love or dislike of his parishioners; where they are higher than customary, you may be certain of finding a turbulent divine, who

who will have *his rights*, regardless whether he is liked or disliked, or, if he is a non-resident, his proctor is of the same way of thinking. If, on the contrary, they are moderately exacted, the love and respect of his neighbours follow of course. In the parishes of Inchiquin, Rath, and Kilkeedy the incumbent receives about one-fourth of what he might legally demand. In the corcasses half-a-guinea per acre has been this year demanded, and, considering that the produce is the bounty of nature, without any expenditure, is not unreasonable; nor is it considered so by the better sort of tenants for ground, that produces seven tons of hay per acre; but, if rated at only five tons, the tenth at a very moderate calculation would amount to a guinea an acre. In the neighbourhood of Newmarket the tithes are generally farmed out, which is a constant source of wrangling and discontent, and usually concludes with the vicar's making an abatement of one-third of the proctor's demand; surely this needs no comment.

In the parish of Kilnaboy, the tithe of wheat is generally 10*s*., oats 6*s*., bere, barley, and potatoes, 8*s*. per acre. In the mountains of Killaloe, tithe, if not set by valuation in the bulk, is 6*s*. or 7*s*. for oats, barley, and flax. Parish of Inchicronan generally by agreement; if by the acre, wheat 8*s*., oats, barley, meadow, and potatoes 4*s*.; flax not tithed. Flax and green crops are not in general tithed,

as in some other counties. Dr. Parker receives seventeen guineas for eel-weirs at Killaloe. In the parish of Fenlow two parts are impropriate, and one vicarial; the first belong to the Earl of Egremont, and the last is in the gift of the Bishop of Killaloe. The rector of Tomgraney has tithes in the following parishes; Tomgraney, Kilballybone, Moyferta, Kilkeedy, Kilfarboy, Inchicronan, Feacle, Tullagh, Killard, Killuran, Killokennedy, &c.; what a monstrous abuse of the institution is this? Some of these parishes are upwards of fifty miles asunder, and no kind of duty performed by him in any, except at Tomgraney. I understand, that singular industry and research amongst musty records have been used to discover these tithes; if half as much had been used to improve the morals, and support the poor, aged, and infirm, how much more meritorious? However, the living, if I am not misinformed, has by this means been raised from 80*l.* per annum to 2,000*l.*; it is in the gift of Mr. Brady of Raheens.

That the rates of tithe in this county are generally far below what the clergyman is legally entitled to, will not be denied; and that tithe-proctors have frequently exacted more than the customary dues, is also equally certain, but still below a tenth, and in some instances they do not receive a twentieth. It has been a fashion lately to treat the clergy,

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and of course tithe, with every degree of contempt; it is a common table-talk before servants, and even to labourers in the field; can we therefore wonder at the opposition it receives from the lower orders? It must be confessed, that too many of the clergy of every persuasion are a disgrace to their order, and give too much occasion for this contempt. The non-residence of the clergy is also another cause of much odium, and very justly; why should a clergyman receive any emolument from those, on whom he confers no benefit? He perhaps lives in England, or in a distant part of Ireland, and is never heard of, but when his proctor comes into the country to set his tithes, that revenue, which, after providing comfortably for the incumbent, was intended by the founders for the use of the poor.

I have often heard it asserted in this county, and elsewhere, that every sect should provide for their own clergy; this might answer in some parts of the North, where the majority are Dissenters of different denominations, but in a county like this, where the disproportion between Catholics and Protestants is so very great, it would be impossible. I feel, how inadequate I am to discuss this difficult subject, and, I dare say, have said more than some hot spirits will like; but the illiberal abuse I have heard poured out indiscriminately on the clergy convinces me, that a regard for religion did not, indeed could

could not, dictate those violent and inflammatory discourses. It would appear but reasonable, that those landed proprietors, who have received such an unexpected addition to their rent-roll, those extensive farmers, who have returned from every market with pockets full of money, or those monopolizing graziers, who lead a life of indolence, and whose greatest exertions in agriculture consist in planting an acre or two of potatoes, and impoverishing, like the poorest cottier, a few more by repeated corn crops, should refrain from such language; had it proceeded from one of their cottiers, who paid three or four guineas for an acre of bad ground, and a cabin *that he built himself*, four or five guineas for the grass of a cow, on the very worst part of his farm, and did not receive a rise in the price of his labour adequate to that of land, or of every necessary of life, we should not be surprised; but from men, who have so unexpectedly jumped into large fortunes, more liberal ideas might reasonably be expected.

The most objectionable part of the tithe system is the vast tracts of rich ground under cattle, that pay nothing:* if the tithe laws were modified, and the

* It is not generally known, that, in 1735, a vote passed in Parliament, that any lawyer, or any other person, who was concerned in the case of tithes for bullocks, should be declared an enemy to his country.

the fattening and grazing ground made to pay, that on the cottiers potatoes and flax might well be abolished, for it is a well known fact, that the herd of a thousand acres pays more tithe than his employer. It is a common assertion, that twice the sum, under any other denomination, would be paid with pleasure; if it is not the amount, that is objectionable, I fear it must be imputed to an aversion for a church establishment, and that it comes from a quarter averse to all government: any of the lower orders, that I mentioned this to, declared their only objection was the oppressive mode, and not the sum. It is the opinion of many moderate clergymen, who wish to live with their flocks as they should do, and also of the best informed of the laity, that an acreable assessment, calculated from the average of the seven preceding years' tithe, and abolishing tithes for potatoes, flax, and every thing under an acre of corn, would not only leave the clergyman at liberty to attend to the duties of his function, free from those perpetual bickerings with his parishioners, but would also take the farmers out of the hands of tithe-proctors, whom they have frequently sufficient cause to dread; and it would make those agricultural drones, the graziers, contribute their share, and not leave the burden on the shoulders of those, who earn their bread by active exertions. The money, collected for this purpose, might be paid into the hands

hands of the county treasurer, and at every assizes handed over to the clergyman free of all expence; to make the income of the clergy keep pace with the value of produce, a septennial valuation by a jury, liable to the usual challenges, would easily fix the average; or it would probably be less objectionable for the incumbent to choose one arbitrator, and the farmer another, and, if these could not agree in their award, a third person might be called in.

Another mode has been suggested; that the tithes should be sold at a moderate valuation, and a fund established, which would not only provide amply for the clergy, but enable them to build glebe houses, and ease them of all anxiety about the things of this world; they could not then have any just cause for non-residence, and the bishop would likewise have no excuse for neglecting to enforce it. This non-residence is a most monstrous abuse of the establishment, and may well give cause for the sarcasms so often levelled at it; well may it be said, and justly, that it is merely the emolument they are anxious about; this applies equally to the dignitaries of the church as to those possessing small livings. If clergymen or their proctors acted impartially in valuing tithes, there would be much less cause for complaint; but it is a glaring fact, that, in many instances, the gentleman pays much

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less than the poor man; it is equally well known, that combinations have been formed by men of fortune, (not gentlemen,) to hamper the incumbent by giving notice to draw tithe, when they were certain he was unprepared.

The total abolition of tithes, without any provision in lieu of them, is a favourite topic with a certain class of men. Supposing this to be accomplished, it would not ease the tenant in the least, as those declaiming landlords would immediately demand an encrease of rent; probably much more than the amount of the tithe: every person must know, that lands tithe-free are always let higher than any other, and great care is taken in advertising such land to point this out.

The greatest grievance of all is the impropriation of tithes, and the grossest abuse of a fund, that was originally intended for the use of the church, and for charitable purposes. It is well known, that these tithes are always more rigidly exacted than those in the hands of the clergy. One lay proprietor alone has upwards of 1000*l.* per annum, and exacts a tenth of every thing. One clergyman thinks, "that no more eligible mode than "tithes can be devised for the maintenance of the "clergy; they rise or fall in their value in pro-"portion to the population of the country, and "the encrease or diminution of the value of money.

" The clergy have by them a support depending " neither on the will of an administration nor the " caprice of the people, and to make any class " of men useful, they must be maintained in a res- " pectable manner. If the property of any one com- " ponent part of the nation could be constitutionally " infringed on, the abolition of tithes would be " succeeded by a proportional rise in rents, which " would defeat the purpose intended. The great " grievance is the impropriation of tithes, which " deprives the church of the subsistence of a body " of clergy sufficient to effect a salutary change " in the opinions and principles of an immoral and " irreligious peasantry."

I have thus endeavoured to collect the opinions of a few of the clergy on this subject, (the laity had but one,) but found it considered by some as an improper one for my enquiries. The Rev. Mr. Whitty of Kilrush informed me, with a very sagacious shrug of his shoulders, " that he could answer the greater part of my queries, *but did not choose to do so;* he considered the interference of the Dublin Society in such affairs as exceedingly impertinent, *not to say worse;* what had they to do with tithes? what was it to them, whether the clergyman resided or not?" (there's the rub,) and said much more, than I think proper to relate, against one of the most respectable and most useful societies in Europe, and concluded

concluded with asking me had I read Dr. Duigenan's pamphlet? That, he said, would open my eyes; as I have never read the pamphlet, I cannot say what its effect might be; probably it might open my eyes, but I doubt if it would *open my heart*. I next applied to this gentleman's son, who is rector of Tullagh; he was desired by a Bishop of Killaloe not to answer any of the queries, as Dr. Duigenan had said an improper use had been made of the information given to some of the gentlemen appointed to make agricultural surveys. When I undertook the survey of this county, I was very sanguine in my expectations of information from so learned a body of men, and who from their local knowledge are, or ought to be, well acquainted with those matters, for which I sought information, (and which are printed in the introduction to this volume,) as well as from their having a great portion of their time unoccupied; yet this, I lament to say, has been the result.

When I first circulated my queries, I had verbal promises from many, of receiving "every information in their power," but, for what reason is best known to themselves, they all, except three gentlemen, declined giving me any written answers, and indeed very few verbal. At an early period I took the liberty of applying by letter to the Bishop of Killaloe, previous to a personal application, to request he would use his influence with his clergy to pro-

cure the necessary information; his Lordship in very polite terms declined interfering with them "at the instance of an *individual*." I next applied to Dr. Parker near Killaloe, to whom I was referred by several gentlemen, as one of the best informed men in the county, but he, alas! "was a perfect stranger "to *all* my queries, and besides, it would not allow "a person a moment to spare for his own private "affairs, or to act in his function as a clergyman, "to give you the answers you require." To the Rev. Mr. Martin of Killaloe I next made a personal application; (a written one, which he never acknowledged, I had previously made;) he informed me, (*standing in the street* with all due submission and reverence,) that really his own affairs (he was drawing home his turf) took up so much of his time, he could give me no information; I waited for him two days at a wretched inn at Killaloe, and called on him at nine o'clock in the morning, but, as I understood the clergy of that part of the diocese were not much in the habit of seeing company, I luckily had breakfasted, or I might have fasted till I reached Castle-Connel. In the year 1725 Dr. Nicholson, Bishop of Derry, sent *circular letters to his clergy*, for the purpose of obtaining a statistical account of the diocese, and received from the rector of Magilligan a full account of his parish, which is published in the Anthol. Hib. vol. 3, p. 116; but I suppose

I suppose the good Bishop had other inducements, besides the request of an *individual*, and probably he would have thought, that the request of such a body as the Dublin Society, expressed through that individual however humble in life, would have merited a better fate.

It has been suggested by some, that a liberal allowance in land, with a comfortable glebe-house and offices, is liable to fewer objections than any before proposed; if this mode was adopted, a restriction from breaking up more than a certain quantity annually, and sowing grass-seeds, would be necessary; this would put him on a par with his parishioners, as his income would rise and fall with the value of produce, and that of land; it would prevent that constant wrangling, which too much prevails in some parishes, and which has gone so far as to induce an agreement amongst the landholders to draw their tithe on the same day, not by an avowed combination, but by a hint, that was well understood.

Mr. Ledwich, in his Epitome of the Antiquities of Ireland, says, that in the reign of King John the clergy did not receive any tithes; the veneration for the church at that time was so great, that regulations were unnecessary; they were supported by oblations. The piety of modern times, I fear, would influence but very small collections. The whole

whole ecclesiastical revenue to a late period was divided into four parts, one to the Bishop, one to the clergy, one to the poor, and one to support the church and other uses, and he says this mode *exists at this day in the diocese of Clonfert.*

To throw as much light on this subject as possible, I shall make a few extracts from Mr. Rawson's admirable Survey of Kildare, lately published. In page 27 he mentions one tithe-dealer having exacted *thirty shillings per acre for wheat*;* "the "dread of citation, and the loss of his straw, made "the timorous ploughman yield to any terms." Again, page 31, "It must appear evident to every "man, that the entire weight of the church establishment falls on the sweat from the brow of industry, whilst the feeder of one thousand bullocks does not pay as much as the herdsman for "his garden. Can it be denied, but that the dread "of tithe keeps much land in pasture, which would "otherwise give bread to thousands, encrease population twenty-fold, do away all necessity of "emigration, and make little Ireland not only a "granary to England, but to the whole world." In page 33, and which deserves peculiar attention, "The assertors, that the titles to tithes and to estates "are

* I was informed lately, that one harpy attempted a few months ago to exact 26s. per acre in the disturbed part of the county of Mayo; I thought it much exaggerated at the time, and did not pay implicit confidence to it, but now I fear it is but too true.

" are of equal strength, should consider that, if " estates were to be let at undefined rents from year " to year, and the landlord at each harvest to view " the crops and exact some proportion in lieu " of rent, would any occupier in such case be " anxious to till or improve? Would not the " kingdom soon become a dreary uninhabited waste? " Yet exactly such is the conduct towards the " tenth of the produce, the tithe. Let the land- " holder be ascertained at what yearly rent he is " to pay for one and the other, and all complaint " is at an end." The scheme, which Mr. Rawson proposes to do away these hardships on the farmer, and I am sure on every *christian* clergyman, is as follows: " Let the average value of all livings, and lay " impropriations, be ascertained by the tithe-books, " &c. of the last seven years; when so ascertained, " let the parishioners of every description be con- " vened in public vestry; let five intelligent men, " but not of the parish, be chosen to state the " value of each sub-denomination, and let the ave- " rage value of the living be apportioned in a corn " rent on each sub-denomination; as, suppose lot " No. 1. is assessed 15*l.* in its proportion of 500*l.*, " (supposed the average value of the living,) and that " the middle price of wheat in Dublin market, " during the preceding month of February, was thirty " shillings; lot No. 1. would then be assessed

" with

" with the annual payment of ten barrels of sound " fair marketable wheat, to be delivered to the " rector, &c. &c. at his dwelling, on every 25th " day of March in every year for ever; giving a " discretionary power to the rector, &c. to decline " (by one month's previous notice) accepting of said " ten barrels of wheat, but that he will receive in " lieu thereof the sum of 22*l.* 15*s.*; 2*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* " having been the average middle price of wheat, " during the previous month of February, in Dublin " market; and in case of non-payment of said sum, " in the course of one month after such notice, " that then the rector shall be at liberty to pro- " ceed by action at law for the speedy recovery " of said sum with costs, &c. &c." Again, " Should " the foregoing scheme not meet with the appro- " bation of their Reverences, *something must be done* " *to quiet agitation, and allay all ferment*; the newly " adopted plan of charging by the barrel is what " the farmer loudly complains of, and *when ninety-* " *nine out of an hundred feel severe pressure, it is* " *high time for a legislature to interfere.* What " objection can there be to state by act of Par- " liament the following rates, by which the tithe- " owner would be paid, and the landholder con- " tented? viz.

" Wheat,

	£.	s.	d.
" Wheat, per acre, -	0	8	0
" Bere and barley, -	0	8	0
" Oats, - - -	0	6	0
" Meadow, - -	0	5	0
" Fleece, - - -	0	4	0
" Lamb, - - -	0	4	0

" And so in proportion for all titheable articles; " in such case, the tithe-owner and farmer only " need the survey of each crop." Had I not run this section to such a length already, I should have made many more extracts from this valuable publication. It has not, I believe, been generally adverted to, that in many cases the tithe is paid twice, for instance, the sheep and the hay they eat, &c. In an anonymous publication very lately printed, " An Enquiry into the History of Tithe," the author has gone very fully into the subject, and has proposed a scheme for the maintenance not only of the established church, but of the Protestant Dissenting and Roman Catholic clergymen. He advises, " that a return upon oath should be made by each Protestant clergyman of the produce of their tithes for the last three years; an average to be struck from each return: for this purpose a committee consisting of the archbishop or bishop residing in the county, custos rotulorum, representatives in Parliament, assistant barrister, magistrates, one member

from every body corporate, who shall have lands in said county, and every gentleman, who had ever served the office of high sheriff, or at any time of his life been a grand juror: these qualifications will embrace the greatest part of the property and respectability of each county, and will consequently embrace the persons most interested in such survey, and most likely to act with uprightness and impartiality. Such committee to be summoned by the sheriff to assemble at the grand jury room, eleven to constitute a quorum, the custos rotulorum or senior magistrate then present to be chairman, the clerk of the peace to act as secretary. Such committee and secretary to be sworn to execute the trust reposed in them to the best of their skill and judgment, and without favour, partiality, or affection. Such committee to have power to elect any persons not exceeding six in number, who, though not possessed of the qualifications aforesaid, may be deemed from other considerations useful members of the committee. The formation of such committee and the duties imposed upon it will necessarily force its members into the investigation and consideration of subjects, which, notwithstanding their vital importance, have been too much neglected by them; in fact our country gentlemen too universally give up their time before dinner to their stables, kennels, and the sports of

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the field, and after dinner, whilst the bottle circulates, the conversation is in general solely occupied with these topics, interspersed with anecdotes not much calculated to improve their morals or their understanding." He next states the necessity of a survey of the county little different from that adopted by the Dublin Society. He states that, according to his calculation, 700,000*l.* will be fully adequate for the support of the clergy of the three persuasions, and for compensating the lay impropriators, supposing the rental of Ireland to be 15,000,000*l.*; if so, a tax of eleven pence in the pound only will be necessary. Glebes are to be purchased, and glebe-houses built, the remainder of the income to be received in cash. Any clergyman, who shall be absent from his glebe-house for more than sixty-one days (taken collectively) during any year, to forfeit his living, unless compelled by ill health to visit a more genial climate. The necessity, the *indispensable* necessity of these or similar provisions, for *re-establishing* the reign of religion in Ireland, is too obvious to be insisted on.

"For the support of the Roman Catholic clergy it is proposed to divide Ireland into 1050 districts; each Catholic priest would then have a range of about five miles in diameter committed to his charge; to be assisted in the more populous parts of Munster,

Connaught, and Leinster with 300 curates; also that the habitations of the parochial clergy shall be built by presentment, and have twenty-five acres of ground attached to each of them. He proposes a change of titles from the present ones to that of Patriarch of Ireland, Exarch, Vice Provost, Provost, with a liberal allowance from 1600*l.* to 250*l.* according to their rank, all to be nominated by the crown; the parochial clergy also to be nominated by the crown, but the Exarch or Provost, in whose district the vacancy may occur, to have a power of returning the names of three or more clergymen, one of whom it shall be obligatory on the crown to nominate to such vacancy."

"For the support of the Presbyterian clergy, their incomes to be raised to 400*l.* the highest, and descending to 150*l.* the least, their colleagues to have 75*l.*" The pamphlet, from which I have taken the above extracts, contains 116 pages, and is highly deserving of attention; I regret, that the limits of this work prevent a more copious extract from it on a subject of the utmost moment, and one, that has had its crisis hastened by avarice and pride.

SECT. 6. *Use of beer and spirits, whether either or which is encreasing.*

THERE is a great decrease in the consumption of whiskey; the poorer classes have little to spare for drams, as the fortunate rise in the price puts them in a great measure out of their power; I fear to this only is the change to be imputed, for, though there is no licenced distillery in the county, the private stills abound in every direction, but the price is not lowered to the consumer, the publican receiving the benefit of the rise in price. The abolition of the distilleries, except those of great magnitude, has been of no use to any person but the owners of private stills. In the year 1800 the consumption of spirits decreased astonishingly; the price was above the reach of the generality, which in some measure weaned them from its use: this, with the high price for agricultural produce, enabled the small farmers to pay high rents, and to lay up guineas in some smoky corner; but, as whiskey is now cheaper, and agricultural produce still high, the use of spirits is rather more frequent. A drunken gentleman is now happily a rarity, and the lower classes are nearly as soberly inclined. Fairs and markets are almost the only places, that drunkenness prevails in, but it generally ends in a few broken

broken heads, and often a little swearing before a magistrate; matters are generally accommodated by the friends of the parties.

The destruction of the distilleries had not the effect, that the legislature intended, but a quite contrary one; for private stills are now more numerous than ever, and more whiskey is made than in the former distilleries. It has also almost ruined the revenue of the county, for in 1803, before this ill-advised abolition, it was upwards of 36,000*l.*; there were five distilleries and two breweries; the former have disappeared, and only one petty brewery remains, and, though there has been a great encrease of the stamp duty, window-tax, hearth-money, and other taxes, the present revenue is short of 10,000*l.*

The beer or ale of this county is a most abominable compound, indeed not worse than the trash made in almost every part of Ireland; it is astonishing how those of better rank can taste it, but habit will lower the palate down to any standard of depravity; happily the brewers are gradually receiving their just punishment, in the encreasing use of water at table in preference to their poisonous mixtures. It is not a little surprizing that, some *one* honest brewer does not break through this combination against the health of the public, and brew, as formerly, pale ale with hops and malt alone; but they have been so long used to drugs

I suppose

I suppose they have lost the art: if such a man could be found, an ample fortune would attend him. It is very extraordinary, that those, who are fond of good and wholesome beer, do not brew for themselves, for, independent of having a wholesome beverage, they would have what is very difficult to be procured, good barm, which, as every family must bake, becomes a matter of no small moment; from want of this indispensable ingredient, heavy unwholesome bread may frequently be seen at the tables of the rich, though, where it can be procured, the bread of this county is generally excellent. Potatoe-barm is very much used, but from frequent mistakes in the process it often fails. The following receipt has been given to me by a lady, who has constantly used it with great success. Add flour to beer until of the consistence of batter, to a quart of this put a table-spoon-full of good brown sugar, set it in a warm place, but not near the fire, shake it twice a day; it will be fit for use in eight days.

Sect. 7. *State of roads, bridges, &c. &c.*

This is a subject, on which I dare scarcely trust my pen; I had frequently heard, before I came into the county, that many abuses existed in the management of roads, and that, as in every other public

public work, jobbing was practised, but I considered such information as somewhat exaggerated; but, since I have been an eye-witness to the numberless abuses, that present themselves in every part of the county, I do not hesitate to declare, that the most barefaced and infamous system of road-jobbing prevails in every barony. What are we to think, when it is well known, that three presentments have been obtained for the *same number of perches* of road, but in different perjured names: that it is a common and well known agreement between landlord and tenant, that a higher rent shall be paid for a farm on account of using influence to obtain presentments at an exorbitant rate for the tenant: that roads are frequently made, where they are entirely useless, merely to throw money into the pocket of some poor relation, favourite, or person, to whom debts were due? It will scarcely be credited, but not the less true, that a grand juror *asked*, and was actually paid 30*l.* for using his influence in procuring a presentment. A friend of mine was present, when a poor tenant offered a very high rent for a small farm, "because he knew his honour would get him a bit of a presentment every year;" and his honour* promised to do so.

In accounting for presentments the most barefaced

* There is no part of Ireland, where this poor word is more prostituted.

faced perjury is well known to be used; new roads, that have a small quantity of earth or bog thrown up from the ditch on either side, and covered with an inch or two of clay, which they have the assurance to call gravel or sand, are always sworn to be faithfully and honestly executed. Frequently an *affidavit* is made, that a road is made with small stones and gravel; the *small stones* are as large as a man's head, and the *gravel* is a whitish clay; they swear, that a sufficient passage is left for the water on each side of the road, yet frequently it is covered with it, and impassable. The most shocking perjuries are used in the affidavit to obtain the presentment; two *credible* persons swear, that a certain sum per perch is *the least* it can be effectually executed for, whilst they well know, that half the money would be more than sufficient. I have scarcely seen any road, that could not be repaired and effectually gravelled for 4*s.* 4*d.* per perch, fourteen feet wide, and allowing the gravel-pit to be half a mile from the road; yet many receive for the most ill-contrived roads covered with clay, thrown out of the gripe on each side, upwards of 5*s.* 5*d.* per perch, *and sworn to.* It is a well-known fact, that affidavits for presentments are often signed by magistrates without having been sworn, and some gentlemen would reckon themselves ill-used, if they

were asked to swear, and probably a message might be the consequence.*

A few days before the assizes in August 1806, I saw a road mending with six or eight inches of absolute clay, laid on at once, in which my horse sunk almost to his knees, yet the overseer swore it was repaired with gravel or small stones, and the tender-hearted conservator repeated the same. I have seen in the barony of Inchiquin a mountain road, that was sworn to be made with gravel or small stones &c., and for which the contractor, a *gentleman*, received 5*s*. 5*d*. per perch; my readers (of any other county) will be astonished, when I inform them, that this road was contracted for by him with his tenants at 1*s*. 6*d*. per perch, and the remainder pocketed by this conscientious *gentleman*; the trench on either side of this road consisting of bog was thrown on the centre, and over this a thin covering of soft slate dug up on either side under the bog, and through which I could not pass *in summer*, nor was the part, that was finished, of the smallest use, except to his own tenants for drawing home their turf, as but a small portion of the intended line was executed. Very frequently a new road

* If the judges of assize would insist on all overseers and others concerned in public works taking their oath in open court, it would be a means of preventing many horrid perjuries; for it is a disgraceful fact, that many gentlemen would give their honour in a lie, that would shrink from an oath.

road is made at both ends, and remains unfinished in the middle for many years, though sworn to be passable from one town to another, and the money pocketed.

An act of parliament of the present reign gives a power to grand juries to appoint a conservator to each barony or half barony, with a salary of 50*l.* per annum. It may be necessary to state the duties of the office to shew, that it is impossible any grand jury, consistently with their oath or honesty, could retain them a moment, when it can be proved by ocular demonstration, that they have neglected every part of their duty; I regret to have to state this very culpable neglect, not to say worse of grand juries.

The act states, that his salary shall not be paid until he shall have laid, *upon oath before the grand jury, in a book to be kept for that purpose*, a full and exact account of his proceedings, stating when and how often he inspected each road within his district; what nuisances, encroachments, or breaches of the act he observed; what remedies he took to remove or punish for the same; what magistates he applied to; what warrants he received, and what fines he levied; and whether any and what nuisances, ditches, walls, or houses have been made or built, or pits dug on any road or nearer to the centre than this act permits; and in general a true and

perfect state of the roads, bridges, and all other works, and matters thereon erected, &c. &c. &c. Now how is this explicit and solemn promise on oath fulfilled? In the first place, no such book is kept by the conservator; if there were, the leaves would be unsullied, nor are any questions asked by the grand jury; as to nuisances, encroachments on the roads are permitted by both magistrates and conservators; and whilst Meath and other counties are paying large sums annually to fill in ditches, our conservators permit new ones to be made, sometimes ten feet broad, and as many deep on each side of the road. At the village of Mylaan, in the parish of Cloney, to the southward of O'Brien's castle, the road is cut away on each side so much, that scarcely six feet of it remain. Large stones rolling about the road are overlooked; turf-stacks and dunghills are permitted to be made close to the road; bridges and gullets are suffered to remain with dangerous holes for many months; no magistrate is ever applied to; no warrants or fines are ever looked for or levied; yet will it be credited, that at every assizes the conservator does, or ought to swear, that he does his duty, and, unless neglected by the contractor, swears that every presentment is honestly executed? Is there no spark of honour or even pride in the gentlemen of this county, that permit this stain on their character?

I cannot

I cannot therefore hesitate to declare, that I reckon conservators as the greatest nuisance in the county. There may be some exceptions to this character, I hope there are; but I confess I have not been fortunate enough to perceive any.

The experiment has been tried in the county of Galway, and they were found so much worse than useless, that they have been laid aside. It will be seen by their oath, that, if they made an honest use of their power, they would be a blessing to the county, and their salary would be totally inadequate to the arduous duties of their office; but, were the present set to receive any addition, it would not make them in the least more attentive. Men of a rank in life much above the present men, and totally unconnected with the county, must be appointed, before any beneficial purpose can be effected. To make this useful, (at the same time it would be a great saving to the county,) 200*l.* per annum would be but a moderate allowance for each barony. The conservator should be perfectly well acquainted with the use of a spirit level, and the most approved method of laying out and making roads, and rendered totally independent of the grand jury in laying out new lines of road. The act of parliament, which enacts that every road shall be finished two days previous to the assizes, is very ill-judged; each road should be

be finished at least one month before the assizes, by which means the conservator, if inclined to do his duty, would have time to inspect every road, and the gentlemen of the neighbourhood, when they grow ashamed of jobbing, could speak as to the manner, in which it is performed, as the road by that time would expose any defects in the execution; but at present, as so many roads are only finished two days before the assizes, the conservator must have wings to enable him to inspect them all, as some baronies are upwards of twenty miles long and ten broad, yet he swears boldly to the just expenditure of the money for each road. Conservators cannot be contractors for roads, yet it is well known they all are, but in other names.

Contractors for roads are great losers by employing cars instead of wheelbarrows, where the distance is short; and as the greater part of the roads of this county are made of the clay (impudently called gravel or sand) thrown out on each side of the road, wheelbarrows would be cheaper than cars. High hedges are permitted in many places to spoil the road; near O'Brien's castle, and near Fountain, there is scarcely room left for a carriage to pass.

Part of the road between Kilnorney church and Tomgraney is paved with large stones, not unlike the vile roads of the county of Wexford.

Some

Some roads near Tullagh are repaired with spar from a lead mine, which makes an excellent material.

The road between Bunratty and Ralehine, the hill road, is particularly badly made with very large stones, sharp as broken glass bottles, without any covering, of even clay—a most shameful job! Large sums have been expended, indeed thrown away, on lowering hills in various places; half the money, that has been laid out for this childish whim at Fountain, which still remains a difficult, steep, dirty, bad road, would have carried it on a level; but alas! it would have run through Mr. Daxon's ground: some of the wags of Ennis, with whom it abounds, call this *Annuity hill*, as for many years back money has been granted for lowering it.

At an assizes at Ennis, the payment of a conservator's salary had been stopped by the judge; yet at the next assizes it was smuggled in, and granted by a judge ignorant of the former act of justice.

Disagreeable as it may sound in the ears of country gentlemen, I am perfectly convinced, (and do not the foregoing facts corroborate it?) that they are in general the most improper persons to ascertain the lines of new roads, that would be most proper for the public benefit; self is always so much consulted, that every influence is used to obtain the road in the line most convenient to them, totally regardless

regardless of the general benefit. I have seen too many instances of this meanness to be mistaken. New roads are almost always laid out by those totally ignorant of the subject. I cannot conceive, how it is possible any person can mark out a road of several miles, where he has to carry it on a level, and round distant hills, without the assistance of a spirit level; yet roads are attempted to be made by those, who, so far from knowing the use of one, do not know its name. I shall relate a conversation I overheard, to shew how these things are usually conducted: the road was intended to be brought on a level for several miles, to prevent the necessity of ascending hills and dipping into deep vallies; the person, whose name was inserted in the presentment, employed another to superintend the work, and who was to receive all the profits. Q. Paddy did you mark out, where the new road is to run? A. Oh yes Sir, but Biddy Mullowney says she will cleave my skull, if I bring it through her ground; so I turned it up against the hill. Q. Well there is no help for it, it's no great matter, but where do you go after that? A. To yonder hill, but I don't know, which side is best. (This hill was half a mile off, and through ground so exceedingly undulating, that it would have puzzled even the experienced eye of Major Taylor.) Q. Well you can mark, which side you think there will be the

the least cutting on, and go on with the rest until I see you next week."—Thus was this road to be laid out, without even sights, by an ignorant labourer, liable to be influenced either by threats or bribes. In my Observations on the County of Dublin Survey, page 138, I have expressed my thoughts on this subject in the following words: "When a "better system of road-making is established, the "enormous waste of the public money, that has "taken place, will be truly astonishing; and I am "convinced, until a National Board of roads is "established, we never can expect matters to mend; "for then the grand cause, grand jury jobbing, "will cease, and the conduct be thrown into the "hands of scientific and practical road-makers."*

Every thing I have witnessed in this county has tended to confirm me in this opinion still more strongly.

A few public-spirited and honest grand jurors have attempted to stem this torrent of peculation, but the consequence has been, that they have been threatened with an opposition to every thing they proposed, and the disgraceful expedient was resorted to, of polling every thing they asked for. One gentleman returned the overplus of a presentment;

* I would not have given this extract, but that the book I allude to is in the hands of very few; and county of Clare gentlemen are not much in the habit of reading.

he was laughed at by his brother jurors; such is the morality of the county of Clare!

BRIDGES,

Are in general in tolerable repair. Some of those on the rivers, that run into the Shannon and Fergus, are not built sufficiently high to admit flood-water at spring tides, and are usually made too near the Shannon. Pipes or gullets are usually very badly made, and highly dangerous, many remaining half open, unnoticed by conservators, and daily passed over by magistrates with unconcern, though they have a power of levying any sum under forty shillings for any sudden failure. I have seen many, that would not have required five shillings to repair if taken in time; but then, if this was done, there would not be a presentment got at the next assizes, of course a job would be lost.

A bridge near the old church of Dysart is in a ruinous way. A new bridge a few perches to the southward of the last bridge is very badly built; it should be re-presented, and the contractor fined. Thomas Studdert, Esq. of Bunratty castle, has built at his own expence a very handsome bridge of one arch over the river Ougarnee; it cost 2000*l.*; the toll is 6*d.* for a carriage, and 1*d.* for a horse. Mr. D'Esterre has also formerly built a bridge higher up

up the river at his own expence, for which he receives a small toll. The enlargement of the bridge of Carrickvicburne, near Tully O'Dea, has been a most shameful job. There are three arches and two pipes, which altogether leave a water-way of about twenty-eight feet, (and little enough for the water of Lough Tedane, to which it is the outlet;) but this, by a most shameful neglect of the magistrates, has been contracted to ten feet by two miserable eel-weirs. The presentment set forth, that on widening the bridge these eel-weirs should be removed, and a bed of rock, that runs across the river, and helped to keep back flood-water on the lough, should be used in building the bridge: but how has this been complied with? The bed of rocks remains untouched, though very fine building stone; and, so far from the eel-weirs having been removed, the small stones and rubbish of the building have been thrown into the eel-weirs, and the water kept higher in the lough than it was ever remembered before, and the adjacent meadows and turf-bog completely inundated; yet the contractor swore to the just expenditure, and was paid, instead of which an indictment should have been preferred against him.

SECT. 8. *Navigations and navigable rivers.*

THE Shannon, which divides this county from those of Limerick, Tipperary, and Kerry, and the Fergus, which is navigable at high water to Clare, are the only navigable rivers. Until lately the navigation of the Shannon was incomplete, but by the exertions of the Board of Inland Navigation, aided most ably by Mr. Brownrigg, the difficulties at Killaloe have been overcome, and now the communication not only from Dublin to Limerick, a distance of upwards of ninety miles, is completed, but also to the sea, which is sixty miles more. The navigation of this river to the sea is perfectly safe, and vessels of 400 tons can come up to the quay of Limerick. A proposal was made some time since to cut a canal from Poolanishary harbour, about twelve miles from Loophead, across the bog to Dunbeg; this, as the ground is soft and the distance only six miles, could be easily accomplished, and, if for no other purpose, would be highly useful for carrying limestone to improve the bogs; but whether the idea of uniting the Atlantic to the Shannon in this direction, by a cut large enough for vessels of 300 or 400 tons, as proposed, would be adviseable, I am not competent to say; if practicable, it would save the sometimes tedious and dangerous passage round Loophead:

Loophead: possibly the Atlantic ocean would be a dangerous sea to meddle with, as Dunbeg harbour is by no means a safe one; it is, however, the only one between Loophead and the bay of Galway, a distance of upwards of forty miles, except Liscanor bay, which with its present very useless quay cannot be depended on for any thing but fishing-boats.

Another line has been proposed from Skarriff bay, and, running through Lough Graney, to communicate with the bay of Galway; how far practicable it would be, I am not able to judge. The numerous lakes and rivers in this line would probably afford a very sufficient supply, and as some run to the Shannon, and others to the bay of Galway, I should imagine a good summit level could be obtained: whether the probable trade on this line would make a sufficient return, is another question. Some gentlemen, whose estates are contiguous to this line, are very sanguine about its practicability, but too many think, if they only see water, that a canal can be made. One of the most useful articles, that could be carried on this line, would be lime, which abounds at Skarriff at one end, and in the county of Galway at the other; the intermediate country by this means could be highly improved, and only wants lime to make it produce abundant crops of corn.

I saw

I saw at Killaloe a striking instance of the vast superiority of water carriage over that by land, one man tracking a vessel with upwards of thirty tons of goods; he told me he was not allowed a horse, except the wind was adverse; this by the bye must be a wretched economy.

The walls of the canal between the entrance from the Shannon and Killaloe are most wretchedly built of water-worn paving stones, and in the most unsubstantial manner, resting against a gravelly bank; consequently they and the gravel are constantly falling in, and choaking the canal, which must be dragged by boats with seven men in each. It seems to be the general opinion in Killaloe, that the canal has been cut in the most improper direction; they think it should have been brought in a valley between Killaloe and Dr. Parker's, and to the north of the Bishop's house, and not parallel to the Shannon as at present. Bishop Bernard offered several thousand pounds, if this line had been pursued; for, instead of cutting his demesne off from the Shannon, as at present it does, it would have gone at the back of his house; if this was the only objection, I think the engineer acted very impartially, as all public officers should, but very seldom do.

It would seem almost unnecessary at this enlightened period to make any remarks on the superiority of water carriage; but, as the majority of the gentlemen

gentlemen of the county seldom read any thing but the newspapers, it may be useful to state this superiority. One horse can with ease draw a boat containing sixty tons as far in a day (about twelve miles) as the same horse would draw on land half a ton. Now, allowing three men to the boat, it will carry as much goods as 120 horses and forty men, allowing one man to drive three horses—the expence per annum for every twelve miles by water carriage will be 110*l.*, whilst that of the 120 horses and forty men, for the same distance, will amount to 3320*l.** This is worth the serious attention of the landed proprietors, for it is highly probable, that at no very remote period grazing and tillage will be more united than at present; for nothing, but the grossest ignorance and prejudice, will maintain, that they cannot be conducted more profitably on the same land, when judiciously blended, than according to the present indolent grazing system alone: did the graziers read a little more, and see and know, what is going forward in the agricultural world, they would learn that, by the improved practices of England, more cattle are fattened on the same quantity of land, when united to tillage, than the same land formerly fattened, when under cattle

* In the Survey of Kildare it is stated, that an acre of potatoe-land can be well manured at Athy for 10*l.*, a distance of forty-one miles from Dublin.

cattle alone; they would then perceive the benefit of having green food for their stock in winter and spring, and the superiority of alternate green and white crops over their present wretched mode of running the ground out by repeated corn crops; it would also enable them, when there was a very low price for cattle at Cork or Limerick, to hold them over and keep the market at a steady uniform rate. Many, I dare say, will be ignorant enough to call this book-farming; the opinion of such boobies is not worth noticing. The introduction of turnips and clover was once called book-farming, and, I dare say, Mr. Muir's feeding, to a state of great fatness, 500 head of cattle in the house in summer, by the cutting of one scythe, will be also called *book-grazing*; so will every practice not derived from their great grandfathers. To shew, how little interest some of these gentlemen take in the improvement of cattle, it is a certain fact, that many of them return from the fair of Ballinasloe in October, without having been once in the Farming Society's yard to view the stock exhibited at their shew; I have even known some of them, that seemed to exult, when they came home, "that they had "not been to see such *mummery*; truly they had "better cattle at home:" but I have done; it is a disgusting subject.

Nothing

Nothing can possibly be worse made than the embankments along the Shannon and Fergus to keep out flood-water; I do not recollect to have seen one tolerably well made; they must have been conducted by persons totally ignorant of such works; they are not calculated to resist floods in spring tides for any length of time, and, as no proper person is appointed (paid by a general assessment of the proprietors) to superintend them, it often happens, that, from the indolence or ignorance of one proprietor, the property of many others is greatly injured; when a breach is made, it is so badly repaired, that it probably stands but a very short time.

TABLE OF TIDES.

	Galway Bay.	Arran Harbour.	Malbay.	Shannon Mouth.	Scattery Island.	Foyne's Island.	Limerick Pool.	Clare Bridge.	
Neap tides, rise — — —	6 or 7	8 or 9	6 or 7	6 or 7	7 or 8	8 or 9	9	9	Feet.
Ordinary spring tides, —	12	15	11	11	12 or 13	13 or 14	16	16	Do.
Extraordinary spring tides,	15	18	14	14	15 or 16	15 or 16	18	18	Do.
High water on full and change days, —	IV $\frac{1}{4}$	IV $\frac{1}{4}$	IV	III $\frac{3}{4}$	IV $\frac{1}{2}$	V	VI	VI	o'Clock.

SECT. 9. *State of fisheries.*

THERE is not more fish caught than what supplies the markets of Limerick, Kilrush, Miltown, and the southern and western parts of the county; the northern and eastern parts being mostly supplied from Galway. Though the numerous bays and creeks from Loophead to Kilrush are admirably well adapted for the fitting out and safe lying of fishing-boats, yet, from the poverty and laziness of those, who are capable of pursuing the fishing business, it is not carried on with the spirit, that such undertakings require. In the herring season upwards of 200 boats, sometimes not more than half that number, are fitted out at Kilrush, Carrigaholt, Querin, and other creeks; as the fishery is uncertain, a bad season completely ruins those poor men, who have expended their all upon the boats and fishing apparatus. If, on the contrary, some person or company of property would embark in this business, and who had sufficient authority to make other fishermen comply with regulations, that would be mutually beneficial, there could be little doubt of a profitable return. That such bye-laws are wanting it is necessary to state, that at present, from want of some person of respectability and authority, they usually elect the oldest boatman admiral, and the

next in seniority vice-admiral for the season; but neither of these has sufficient power to enforce the laws or regulations, which they have agreed to obey for the general good of all the fishermen. It is generally considered by the fishermen, that, if the herrings are disturbed for a few days after the shoal has come into the Shannon, they will retire from it; yet, though they are persuaded of this, they generally attempt to steal out at night on the first appearance of the shoal of herrings; this being observed by others, they steal out one after the other, until all the boats are out, and, whether from this or some other cause, they frequently return without a single herring, loading each other with curses for having broken this agreement, which they think of so much importance. They are generally so cowardly, that, though the Galway fishing-smacks come above fifty miles, and fish outside of the light-house, not one of these would venture within five miles of the Shannon's mouth. It is generally thought, that a very productive turbot fishery might be carried on in the mouth of the Shannon, yet no exertions are made; few, if any, of the fishermen being able to expend fifteen or twenty guineas for a trawl. Frequently for several months the inhabitants on the coast are almost without any kind of fish, sometimes owing to boisterous weather, and often to the more profitable and agreeable employment

ment of carrying goods ashore from smuggling vessels.

No part of Ireland, or indeed of any other country, is so well situated for carrying on a lucrative fishery; but, as only the weak and small fish keep near the shore, it must be mere peddling, until companies are formed, that will be able to fit out vessels large enough to navigate the sea as far as the banks of Newfoundland. It is well known, that myriads of fine fish frequent the great bank, that stretches nearly from the coast of Galway in an oblique direction to Newfoundland, from twenty to thirty fathoms beneath the surface of the water, and of various breadths, from fifty to one hundred miles or more, extending from lat. 53° N. long. 10° 10 of London, to lat. 45° and long. 53° W. The Danes carried on a most lucrative trade in this fishery with the south of Europe in the ninth and tenth centuries, and furnished Ireland and other countries with wine and other southern produce.

The French have had at some periods upwards of 500 sail in this trade. The English having explored only the western banks, the middle remains almost unknown, though it is highly probable it would be much more likely to afford large quantities of fish; for the whales, which used formerly to proceed from the eastern coasts of Greenland towards Newfoundland, and the coast of New England,

land, have been banished by the Americans, and now make their way across the great bank, somewhere about lat. 50° and between 30° and 40° of W. longitude, passing off the western coasts of the Azores, Ascension, and St. Helena, towards the southern frozen regions, where they are caught by the southern whale fishers, who follow them from England and America; how much more advantageous therefore would it be to intercept them on the great bank, before they were exhausted by the length of the voyage? The western coasts of Ireland are particularly convenient for such a trade, as not only whales, but every other species of fish from the northern regions, might be obtained in the greatest quantity and of the best quality: it is computed, that upwards of 2000 vessels might be easily loaded in a season. To accomplish this, a company with a large capital must be formed, and there is every probability, that no speculation could be more profitable to the subscribers; and to the landed proprietors it must be highly advantageous, as the improvement of land and consumption of produce would necessarily keep pace with the prosperity of the fishing company, not only from the consumption of the fishermen, but from the number of boat-builders, coopers, salt-makers, sail and rope-makers, &c. &c. and their families, which must necessarily be employed. As a nursery for the best

best kind of seamen to a maritime nation, whose existence depends almost entirely on her navy, the advantage must be incalculable.

The boats in general use are such as have been used from the remotest period of history, wicker-work covered with either horse or cow hides; they are the only kind, that could live a moment in the violent surf, that generally beats on this shore: it is astonishing, what a sea they will venture to encounter, one, where a ship's boat would immediately founder, but these boats mount with every wave. It is nothing uncommon for a man to put his foot through the skin, when much worn; if he has nothing at hand to cram into the hole, he must keep his leg there until he reaches the shore, but frequently he takes off his wig, which answers the purpose; these accidents happen so often, that he is seldom at a loss and as little concerned. The small boats, generally used on the Shannon, are about thirty feet long, and only about three feet broad, flat-bottomed, and cost about four guineas; many are much smaller, for attending the weirs and for angling, and some much larger; it is astonishing to see the number of people, that these unsteady boats will carry across the Shannon at Castle-Connel, and other places, even in rapids, where one would think such narrow boats would be overset;

set; yet they are managed so skilfully, that few accidents ever happen.

Oysters are taken on various parts of the coast; those taken at Pouldoody in the bay of Galway have long had a high reputation for flavour, but lately, from want of stocking the bed, they have become scarce. There are many other places on the coast of this bay, where oysters are found, and some tolerably good, but still greatly inferior to the Pouldoody. Inferior sorts are sold by the hawkers all through this and the neighbouring counties under this denomination, and the citizens of Dublin are often gulled by fellows crying "Burrin oysters, fine Pouldoody oysters," which I have seen them buying from oyster-boats at George's-quay, the smallest being picked out for this purpose. Oysters are taken up on the coast of the Shannon, particularly at Querin and Poulanishary; the beds are small, but the oysters good; they almost all are sent to Limerick. What are sold at home are usually for a shilling per hundred; formerly they were to be had for 4*d.* or 5*d.*

Crabs and lobsters are caught in great plenty on the shores of the bay of Galway in every creek from Blackhead to Ardfry, and are generally sold at a very reasonable price; those, which in Dublin market Mrs. O'Brien would charge seven or eight shillings for,

for, may be often had here for 6*d*., sometimes less. They are also to be had on the shore of the Atlantic, from Blackhead to Loophead, but are not caught in any great quantity. Crabs at Liscanor are reckoned very indifferent, but the lobsters good; whilst at Miltown-Malbay the crabs are excellent, and the lobsters very middling.

The salmon fishery of the Shannon is very considerable; and a few are taken in all the rivers, that communicate with it or the sea. That of Limerick was formerly much more abundant than at present, owing in a good measure to the illegal practice of destroying the fish at night by lights in Adair and other rivers in the spawning season, and also to the very general practice of watering flax in the Shannon, in full view of the magistrates of Killaloe, and in violation of an act of parliament against such practices.

Eels form another very material article of consumption; they abound in every river and rivulet; it would be a very desirable thing, if they could be caught without obstructing the passage of the water, as eel-weirs are the chief cause of very great damage to lands on the banks of rivers; I mean those chiefly, that are built of stone with a narrow mouth, for, if they are constructed with wattles like those on the Shannon, the mischief is by no means so great, because the water finds a passage

through them. An eel-weir, that sets for perhaps 10*l.* a year, frequently is the cause of damage to land worth upwards of 1000*l.* a year, often much more; yet the proprietors of the land, thus injured, have not the spirit to bring it before a jury: for I think it is highly probable, that it is illegal to erect any other than those with wattles, at least it ought to be so.

At Liscanor bay a considerable quantity of small turbot is sometimes caught, and generally sold at a reasonable price; at least it appears so to a person, who has lived in Dublin; but the banks, that produce the large fish, are too far from shore to permit the small boats in use for this purpose to avail themselves of it; nor do even the fishermen of Galway or Kilrush, who have boats able to stand the sea, take advantage of this blessing; they are a cowardly set.

Fine mullet and bass are sometimes caught at the mouth of some rivers, and bass are often bought by the inhabitants for mullet, but are greatly inferior. Many kinds of flat fish, with mackarel, herrings, whitings, &c. in their proper season are caught in abundance, and are a great relief to the poor of Limerick and other towns.

SECT. 10. *State of education—schools, and charitable institutions.*

THOUGH schools abound in this county, yet, with the exception of those highly respectable ones of Ennis and Killaloe, the state of education is at a very low ebb indeed. The common country schools have generally from twenty to one hundred scholars each, *boys and girls mixt together*, but are badly attended in winter, as they are usually kept in small damp cabins, or in the Roman Catholic chapels, (to the disgrace of the priest and his flock,) equally damp and dirty. It may be justly imagined no respectable man would suffer the hardships the masters do, when the remuneration is so very inadequate to a task so very irksome. The prices for education in some places are very different from those in others; some receive 6*s.* per annum for teaching to read, write, and the common rules of arithmetic; for reading and spelling only 4*s.*; low as these prices are, and established at a period, when the value of money was much higher than at present, yet custom has so firmly established it in the minds of the parents, that any attempt to raise it would be probably accompanied with the withdrawing of the pupil from school, and even this pittance is very badly paid; sometimes a trifling ad-

dition is made to the master's little income, by drawing examinations, bail-bonds, petitions, summonses, &c. &c. As the cold and damp situations of country schools generally drive the children home in winter, the master during this season goes from house to house, and teaches the children for his diet; the Irish peasants partaking in common with the higher classes this peculiarity, that they would rather give five shillings worth of eatables than one in cash. It often happens that, from want of employment, some masters are under the necessity of employing themselves in manual labour for a subsistence. The distance being sometimes great between the master and children, he is obliged to neglect some in winter, and they often forget in that period what they had learned the previous summer. The state of education may be easily appreciated, when it is known that, with the exception of a few universal spelling-books, the general cottage classics are the

History of the seven Champions of Christendom.
———— Montelion, Knight of the Oracle.
———— Parismus and Parismenes.
———— Irish Rogues and Rapparees.
———— Freney, a notorious robber, teaching them the most dexterous mode of robbing.
———— the most celebrated pirates.
———— Jack the Bachelor, a noted smuggler.

History

History of Fair Rosamond and Jane Shore, two prostitutes.

———— Donna Rosina, a Spanish courtezan.

Ovid's Art of Love.

History of Witches and Apparitions.

The Devil and Dr. Faustus.

Moll Flanders, highly edifying no doubt.

New System of boxing by Mendoza, &c. &c. &c.

Whilst these are the books, from which our poor have their education, it can hardly be expected, that the lives of pirates, dexterous thieves, witches, smugglers, and illustrious prostitutes, can have any but the very worst tendency. The fault must be in a good measure attributed to the total neglect of the Roman Catholic clergy; did they pay that attention to the schools, that they ought, such books would not for half a century have continued to disgrace and corrupt the children of their persuasion, of which the scholars almost exclusively are; for good spelling-books, and the many little cheap tracts published by the Society for discountenancing vice, and sold by Mr. Watson in Capel-street, and in some country towns, are not dearer or more difficult to procure than the infamous publications, of which I have given a disgusting but small catalogue.

At the chapel of Kilfenora two schools are kept; one master has about eighty, and the other fifty scholars; for small boys they receive 1*s.* 7½*d.*, for bigger

bigger ones, whom they teach arithmetic and book-keeping, 3*s*. 9½*d*. per quarter. In Kilrush one school has upwards of one hundred, another seventy, another fifty; Menmore twenty, Querin thirty-five, Moyferta twenty, Cross forty, Fodhieragh twenty, Kilclogher twenty; all these are in the union of Kilrush. The three schools in Kilrush are the only ones, that are attended in winter; the masters receive for reading, writing, and arithmetic 6*s*. per annum, and for reading and spelling 4*s*. There is scarcely a part of the county without a school, which in summer is numerously attended. In the mountains of Broadford one school contains upwards of sixty of both sexes, at 1*s*. 7½*d*. and 2*s*. 2*d*. per quarter; they are taught the Universal Spelling Book, Alibaba, and the Seven Sleepers. In a school near Spansel-hill, containing above sixty scholars, they pay 3*s*. 3*d*. per quarter, but are taught arithmetic. There is a very numerous school kept in the Roman Catholic chapel at Killaloe; it contains several grown boys and girls, and, when I visited it unexpectedly, I surprized two of these learning their lesson in a very loving manner, the gentleman's arm about the young lady's waist; the master was absent. There are two schools at Ennis, one of which is on the foundation of Erasmus Smyth, and has been conducted by the Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald for many years with high reputation; the other school

school is also admirably well kept by Mr. O'Halloran. The diocesan school at Killaloe is well conducted.

The Rev. Mr. Barret, titular Dean of Killaloe, by his unwearied exertions had a charity school erected in Ennis in 1792; it at present consists of about fifty boys: he informs me, that the *Roman Catholic* inhabitants of Ennis contribute very little towards its support; the chief aid comes from the Dean's own pocket, assisted by the liberality of the Marquis of Headfort, Lord Conyngham, Colonel Burton, and a few other gentlemen, by whose assistance upwards of forty boys have been apprenticed. This good Dean also supports, chiefly from his own little income, a school of ten girls; how different from some of his Protestant brethren possessing lucrative sinecures, who think charity begins (and stays) at home!

There was a Protestant charter-school erected by Anthony Hickman, Esq. early in the last century, at Ballyket in the parish of Kilrush; it maintained forty boys, and had two acres of land annexed to it; but from non-payment of rent the establishment was dissolved, and a very commodious house in a cheap country is now in ruins. There are three or four protestant families in the neighbourhood, whose ancestors were educated there. Until lately there was a protestant charter-school at Newmarket; for what reason it has been removed, I am ignorant.

Sir

Sir Edward O'Brien intends to procure one of the benevolent Mr. Lancaster's pupils, and open a school at Newmarket. The benefit this will be of to the rising generation is incalculable; the scholars will not only learn infinitely quicker, but they will not imbibe bad principles from the lives of notorious prostitutes and successful villains. How different the state of education now and before the irruption of the Danes! it is too well attested to be disputed; learning flourished greatly between the years 432 and 820, when the Danes first invaded Ireland. M'Curtin says that, after the coming of the English, there were, at one time, upwards of six hundred scholars at Clonroad near Ennis.

SECT. II. *State of non-resident and resident Proprietors.*

ALTHOUGH the number of non-resident proprietors is not very great, yet the greater part of the county belongs to them; the principal are,

Marquis of Thomond,	Lord Clive,
Marquis of Buckingham,	Lord Perry,
Lord Powerscourt,	Earl of Egremont,
Lord Milton,	Henry O'Brien, Esq.
Marquis of Headfort,	—— Westby, Esq.
Lord Conyngham,	George Stackpoole, Esq.
Lord Norbury,	Toby Butler, Esq.
	—— Walcot,

—— Walcot, Esq. Michael Blood, Esq.
Sir John Riggs Miller, Richard Blood, Esq.
Sir Hugh Dillon Massey, William Blood, Esq.
—— Whitelock, Esq. Sir John Blake.
—— Synge, Esq.

No person can deny the right, which every man has to live where he likes best; but surely one of a feeling mind would find himself impelled to make some amends for the want of his cheering influence and example, and, in return for those large sums, which, totally lost to this country, enable him to live with splendour in another, to give every encouragement to an improving resident tenantry, not only by rewards for the best stock of husbandry, but by sending from England males of the best kinds of each species, and models of improved implements, to be kept by his agent, and under certain restrictions dispensed gratis to the most deserving of his tenants, but above all by the dispensing from the fountain-head that never-failing inducement to Irish industry, a *certain tenure*, and freeing them from the rack-rents imposed by that bane to Irish prosperity, an *Irish middleman*.*

 A person,

* I beg it may be understood, that I discriminate between a wretch, who takes large tracts of ground, and relets at an enormous rent, without any lease, or at best a very short one, without making the smallest improvement, and the monied man of skill, who takes a great extent of waste ground, and, after reclaiming it by a great expenditure

A person, who has traversed the county in every direction, as I have done frequently, must lament to see such vast regions of improvable ground, that a little industry and skill would clothe with smiling harvests, devoted to the rearing or rather starving of a few young cattle, and considered as of so little value as either to be thrown in, as of no sort of value, with a few acres of other land, or set in great masses without measurement by the bulk.

In that part of the county between Mount Callan and the Shannon, containing many miles square, I have seen thousands of acres of ground, highly improvable, set in this wretched mode, that with attention and skill could be made well worth two guineas an acre, and that now do not bring one shilling; and yet I dare say, if any man or company of skill and enterprize would propose to take any part of this dreary waste, he would be referred to an agent wholly ignorant of agricultural affairs, or perhaps be offered a twenty-one years' lease at a high acreable rent with many vexatious clauses. It will scarcely be credited, that an agent to a great estate in the county of Mayo must have at least a year's rent in hand as lease-money, whilst the indolent spendthrift

expenditure of money and industry, relets it at a rent, that, though moderate, will amply repay him, and put it in the power of those, whose want of capital and skill prevented it, to provide comfortably for their families.

spendthrift landlord countenances the receipt of this monstrous bribe. When such things are permitted by landlords, how can Ireland make those advances in improvement, that her climate, population, and the sinews of her athletic peasantry would quickly enable her to do? If absentees could be once brought to determine to let their lands, already under cultivation, to none but occupying tenants, they would soon see and feel the beneficial effects of the practice, and I cannot conceive, why a tenant will not pay his rent as well to a resident agent, as to an indolent non-resident middleman. Mr. Young, who cannot be accused of partiality, speaks thus in his Tour in Ireland, vol. ii. part 2. page 21. "When therefore "it is considered, that no advantage to the estate "can arise from a non-resident tenant, and that a "resident intermediate one improves no more than "the poor occupiers, who are prevented by his op-"pressions, that the landlord often gains little or "nothing in security for employing them, but that "he suffers a prodigious deduction in his rental for "mere expectations, which every hour's experience "proves to be delusive. When these facts are duly "weighed, it is presumed, that the gentlemen in "those parts of the kingdom, which yet groan "under such a system of absurdity, folly, and op-"pression, will follow the example set by such a "variety of intelligent landlords, and be deaf to

" the deceitful asseverations, with which their ears are " assailed, to treat the anecdotes retailed of the cot- " tier's poverty with the contempt they deserve, " when coming from the mouth of a jobber; when " these blood-suckers of the poor tenantry boast of " their *own improvements*, to open their eyes and " view the ruins, which are dignified by such a term, " and finally determine, as friends to themselves, " to their posterity, and their country, *to let their* " *estates to none but the occupying tenantry.*"

I am also happy in having a coincidence of opinion from the enlightened author of the Kildare Survey; page 52, he says, (and I hope the absentees of Ireland will follow the example,) " The example of the " late Marquis of Rockingham to improve his estate " induced him to send large quantities of the most " improved implements in agriculture, to be divided " gratis amongst his Wicklow tenantry. To shew " example to his English tenantry he established " farms to be separately conducted, according to the " most improved Norfolk and Kentish farming, in " order that his tenantry might judge for themselves. " In such acts as these true patriotism is placed; by " such conduct the squire of 500*l.* a year, who starves " in the purlieus of a court, would soon see a planted " improved country about him, and his estate en- " creased four-fold. The absentee employs an Irish " agent, too frequently an attorney, whose know-

" ledge

" ledge never exceeded the limits of the Four Courts,
" to receive his rents, set his estates, and divide &c.
" at his sovereign pleasure; the agent comes down
" at stated half-yearly periods; from failure of crop
" or market, some few are not punctual; the agent
" cannot spare time to look at the means of pay-
" ment; he cannot be at the least trouble of coming
" a second time; he sends down ejectments, and
" runs up a bill of costs of twelve pounds for a few
" days want of punctuality. How can a tenantry
" flourish under such hands? How can an estate
" improve under such management? I would here
" counsel those characters, who cannot breathe the
" air of Ireland, to choose for their agents men ac-
" quainted with the value of land; men, who are
" resident on or near their estates; men, who will
" watch, superintend, and encourage the tenant,
" who will plant and improve; men, who will es-
" tablish nurseries for the use of the tenantry, supply
" them with the best males for the improvement
" of their stock of every kind; in short, men, who
" will truly represent the absentee, and prefer the
" improvement of his estate to every other consi-
" deration."

I would by no means recommend to an absentee to enter into the detail of the improvement of waste land; but he certainly should make all the necessary drains, divide the land into fields of convenient

venient size, build comfortable houses and offices, make roads, build lime-kilns, and thus induce industrious tenants to perfect the improvements he began; but, to make this either profitable to himself or instructive to the country, he must employ scientific practical men to conduct it, and not leave it to an ignorant steward, or perhaps to Paddy or Jemmy, two cronies of the agent. If he has so much of his country's bigotry as to think Irishmen incapable of conducting an improvement of this nature, let him send over an English, or Scotch, or any man, that will carry it into effect.

In many parts of this county there are middlemen, who possess large properties, either by this mode or by the industry of their ancestors, who have improved the ground immediately adjoining to their houses; but in general any ground at a distance is usually under as bad management as that of the poorest cottier; draining their ground is the last thing they think of.

The resident proprietors of estates are not numerous, but the list of wealthy landholders is very long and highly respectable, many of them able to purchase the fee of the estates, on which they have made their money.

SECT. 12. *State of circulation of money or paper.*

BEFORE the emission of silver coin of different values by the Bank of Ireland, this county in common with every part of Ireland, except the North, was obliged to submit to the acceptance of small notes, from 6*d.* to half-a-guinea; every petty trader circulated his notes in multitudes; they, as might be expected, being destitute of capital and some of honesty, heavy losses have been sustained by those, who could least afford it. It will be scarcely credited in Dublin, that at this day, 1st of October 1807, they are publicly negociated in Ennis, and of the value of 1*s.* 1*d.* to a guinea. Since the liberal circulation of silver coin by the Bank of Ireland, there can be no possible excuse for the emission of paper for small sums. If every landholder adopted the plan of Sir Edward O'Brien, of refusing all notes but those of the Bank of Ireland or Limerick, kites would soon fly to some other country; but the landlord should give previous notice of his intention, otherwise the poor tenant would have to pay a very heavy discount for these notes.

SECT.

Sect. 13. *State of farming or agricultural societies.*

There is scarcely a county in Ireland, where a farming society is more wanting than in this very backward one. As the majority of the land-holders are graziers, they, in common with gentlemen of that description, are very far behind other parts of Ireland in agricultural pursuits, and consequently not a little obstinate in defence of old practices. It will take some years to convince them, that small bone in cattle and sheep can carry as much meat as large, and that a fleece of South Down wool, which sells this year (1807) for 16*s*., is more profitable than that of the ugly thick-legged, big-headed animal they are so fond of, which is worth on an average only about 6*s*. A few years since a farming society was proposed by some enlightened gentlemen, but after a few meetings, and collecting about thirty guineas, for what reason I am ignorant, every thing died away. When the very great benefit, that has accrued to the country from the exertions of the different farming societies of Ireland, be considered, I am at a loss to account for this very culpable apathy; if any thing can rouse them from their torpor, I would beg leave to propose the following list of premiums, and I look with confidence

fidence to the present members for the county, whom I happy to have in the list of not only resident but improving proprietors, for carrying this beneficial plan into execution. No excuse can be made on account of the expence; the amount of the premiums not exceeding 100*l.* annually, even supposing they were all claimed, which, I fear, would not be the case.

CLASS I.

For comfortable Habitations.

	£.	s.	d.
I. To the gentleman or farmer, who shall have the most comfortable habitations for his labourers, a medal.			
II. To the three persons living by their labour, who shall have their children, houses, and gardens in the neatest, cleanest, and most decent order:			
III. To the first, - - -	2	0	0
IV. To the second, - - -	1	10	0
V. To the third, - - -	1	0	0
VI. To the person living by labour, and paying not more than 40*l.* a year rent, who shall have his house, farm, and offices in the best and neatest order, - - - - -	3	0	0

N. B. The mode of cultivation, cleanness of the ground, and thriving state of the quicksets, will very much influence the decision of the premium.

N. B. No person to be admitted as a claimant of any of the premiums of this class, who shall not, once at least, within the year preceding the decision, have white-washed or coloured his house inside and outside, and kept a paved or gravelled way in front, free from dunghill or dirt, and not admitted his pig to sleep in his dwelling-house, and who has not a yard or place enclosed from the road, for his cows, pigs, turf-stack, dunghill, &c. and who has not a chimney, that draws the smoke, and windows, that open with a sash or hinges in each room.

CLASS II.

For industry and fidelity.

	£.	s.	d.
No. I. To the person, who shall have lived the greatest number of years in the service of any member of this society, with honesty, sobriety, diligence, and fidelity, not less than ten years - - - -	3	0	0
To the second - - - -	2	0	0
To the third - - - -	1	0	0

No. II.

	£.	s.	d.
No. II. To the labourer, who shall have earned most money (not less than five pounds) by working at task work	2	0	0
To the second - - -	1	0	0
No. III. To the labourer in husbandry, who shall have worked the greatest number of days in the year 1808, in the service of any member of this society, to the satisfaction of his employer, not less than 250 days at labouring work only - - -	2	0	0
To the second - - - -	1	10	0
To the third - - - -	1	0	0
No. IV. To the son of a labourer, under fifteen years of age, who shall have worked the greatest number of days in the year 1808, in the service of any one member of the society, to the satisfaction of his employer, not less than 250 days at labouring work	2	0	0
To the second - - -	1	10	0
No. V. To the wife or widow of a labourer, who shall have spun the greatest quantity of linen or woollen yarn (not less than 60lbs.) in the year 1808, with her children only, under the age of sixteen years - -	1	10	0
To the second greatest quantity	1	0	0
To the third greatest quantity	0	10	0

	£.	s.	d.
No. VI. To the wife or widow of a labourer, who shall have knit the greatest number of pairs of stockings, with the assistance of her children only, under the age of sixteen years, within the year 1808 - - -	1	10	0
To the second - - -	1	0	0
To the third - - -	0	10	0

CLASS III.

To the school-master, who shall have the best abilities and character for honesty, sobriety, and regularity, who shall have his school-house and his scholars in the neatest and cleanest order, and whose scholars, on examination, shall be best instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic,	5	0	0
To the second - - -	3	0	0

CLASS IV.

Crops.

No. I. To the labourer in husbandry, holding not more than twenty acres, who shall have the largest, cleanest,

and

	£.	s.	d.
and best crop of red clover, (not less than one acre,) and sown with seed not less than at the rate of 2lbs. per acre	2	0	0
No. II. To the farmer living by agriculture, and paying not more than thirty pounds per annum rent, who shall have the largest, cleanest, and best crop of drill potatoes, not less than half an acre - - - -	2	0	0
To the second - - -	1	0	0

CLASS V.

Planting.

No. I. To the artificer or labourer, who shall, within the year 1808, plant and protect the greatest quantity of sallow, ozier, or willow, of any kind	2	0	0
No. II. To the person in this district, who shall, within the year 1808, enclose the greatest quantity of ground, not less than half an acre, and stock it with forest-trees, shrubs, and white-thorn quicks, for sale as a nursery	5	0	0
To the second - - -	3	0	0
No. III. To the farmer living by agriculture, and not holding more than			

fifty

	£.	s.	d.
fifty acres of ground, who shall plant and protect the greatest number of trees, within hedge-rows, not more than six feet asunder - - -	3	0	0

CLASS VI.

Improving and manuring.

	£.	s.	d.
No. I. To the person, not holding more than fifty acres, who shall put the greatest quantity of lime upon his farm, not less than eighty barrels to the acre, and not less than three acres - - - - - - -	5	0	0
No. II. To the person, who improves the greatest quantity of bog, not holding more than twenty acres, and lays it down with grass-seed, not less than two acres - - - -	3	0	0
To the second - - - -	2	0	0
No. III. To the best compost maker, in quantity and quality, not holding more than twelve acres - -	3	0	0

CLASS

CLASS VII.

Cattle.

	£.	s.	d.
I. To the person, who shall keep the best bull for the use of the barony he resides in, a silver cup, or -	5	0	0
II. To the farmer living by agriculture, who shall produce at one summer shew the best cow and calf his own property - - - - -	4	0	0
To the second - - -	3	0	0
To the third - - -	2	0	0

CLASS VIII.

Sheep.

To the person, who shall keep a ram of an improved breed (the new Laicester) for the use of the barony he resides in, a silver cup.

N. B. No person to have the use of said ram, who holds more than fifty acres of land; also not to send more than five ewes, and to pay for each three pence per night for grass.

CLASS

CLASS IX.

Horses.

	£.	s.	d.
To the person, who shall let to mares the best draught horse in this district	15	0	0

CLASS X.

Swine.

	£.	s.	d.
I. To the person, who shall keep for public use a boar of an improved breed, a silver cup, or - -	5	0	0
II. To the labourer, who shall produce the best sow and her pigs in the year 1808, his property - -	2	0	0
To the second - - -	1	0	0

CLASS XI.

Ploughing.

I. To the person, who shall plough twenty perches of lea in the best manner, the cup presented by the Farming Society of Ireland.

To

To the ploughman - - -	£.3	0	0
To the second - - -	2	0	0
To the third - - - -	1	0	0

CLASS XII.

Ploughs.

To the carpenter or plough-maker, who shall produce at our meeting the best and cheapest plough, made by himself, and who will contract, if required, to furnish ten of the same at the price of the one produced - 5 0 0

CLASS XIII.

Carts and Cars.

To the artificer, who shall produce the best constructed cart, car, or other vehicle, which will combine strength with ease of draught, and contract as in class the twelfth - - -	5	0	0
To the second - - -	3	0	0

CLASS XIV.

Smith's work.

To the smith, in the county, who shall produce the best shod wheel, or any piece of iron work belonging to agricultural use - - -	£.2	0	0
To the second - -	1	10	0
To the third - - -	1	0	0

1st. Resolved, We pledge ourselves to each other, that we will not take into our service any artificer, servant, or labourer, who may be discharged or dismissed the service of any member of this society for any species of misconduct; and we pledge ourselves to part with the person immediately, if through inadvertence we might happen to engage such a one in our service; and we declare, that, while on the one hand we will encourage and protect the sober and industrious, we will, on the other, use every exertion in our power to bring to justice the idle and profligate, and to punish all those, who shall be detected in plundering the crops and destroying the property of their industrious neighbours, to the great discouragement of all agricultural exertion and improvement, and for this purpose we will pay,

pay, to whoever shall discover, and prosecute to conviction, any person or persons guilty of stealing corn, hay, turnips, or other crop, sheep, or fowl of any sort, or of cutting or stealing any timber, young trees, or hedges, the sum of THREE GUINEAS.

2d. Resolved, That any person, who shall in future employ the amount of the premium, or any part of it he or they may receive, in getting drunk or making others so, is declared incapable of ever becoming a candidate for any premium again. The *reward* given by the Society being meant for the benefit of the sober and industrious, not for the encouragement of drunkenness and rioting, its usual consequences.

3d. Resolved, That the Society will meet but two days in each year. One of the days to appoint the committee for inspecting the different claims; the other day for paying them for the next twelve months.

SECT. 14. *State of manufactures—whether encreasing.*

ALL the linen manufactured in this county is used for home consumption, and is generally coarse and of low price. A small quantity of coarse diapers for towels is made, and generally sold at fairs and markets; also canvas for sacks and bags is sold in the same manner. Some judgment may be formed

of the extent of the manufacture, when it is known, that there are but three small bleach-greens in the county; one at Ennis, one at Donass, and one at Ballyhonege. I do not think the genius of the country seems to lead that way; they are much more inclined to pursue the woollen manufacture. Flax-seed is usually procured from Limerick, and almost all imported from America; since the commencement of the war Dutch seed could not be procured, to which a decided preference would be given. American seed may be easily distinguished by its brown colour, whilst the Dutch has a greenish cast; the cause of this preference is not known nor easily accounted for; the colour of the American seed proceeding from their permitting their flax to stand longer than the Dutch, one would imagine, that the produce of ripe seed would be superior to that of unripe, but there is always a good deal of whim in these opinions. The only reason they assign for this preference is, that the Dutch seed does not produce flax with spotted stalks, but I am inclined to think this is mere supposition. Most poor people save their own seed, and it is equal to any they can buy. When the flax is pulled, after beating off the seed-pods, it is immediately watered in stagnant pools, but too often in the river Shannon; at the proper period it is spread to dry, and then usually brought into the

the house, where it remains until October or November, when men, who travel through the country for this purpose, finish the process by breaking, scutching, and hackling, and leaving it ready for spinning. The women then frequently give it what they call a *cloving*, which is performed by a small instrument, called a cloving-tongue, and makes the flax soft and silky; to produce this effect, they also beetle it well. A small quantity of yarn as fine as four dozen is manufactured near Ennis, but the quantity is so trifling as not to deserve the name of a manufacture. Spinning-wheels are made in various places; the common sort sells for 6*s*. each; those made in imitation of North-country wheels for about half a guinea; the first sort answers very well for any thing under three dozen yarn, but for finer the other is necessary; if the price was as low as that of the common kind, they would be preferred, as the women say, that from the greater circumference of the wheel they are more easily turned, and do not require such quick repetitions of pressure by the foot. Wheels for spinning woollen yarn usually sell for about five or six shillings. A good quantity of coarse woollens called frize are made chiefly for home consumption.

At Corrofin and Innistymon considerable quantities of coarse yarn stockings are sold every market day; they are not as fine as those made in Cunnamara

namara in the county of Galway, (thanks to the Leicester sheep,) but are much stronger, and fitter for soldiers and those, who prefer strength to beauty: they are brought in large quantities to Dublin and the North by dealers, who attend at these towns every market day. Since the introduction of Leicester sheep, called by the old women the *Dexters*, the wool of Burrin and other rocky districts, that was formerly proverbially fine, has become coarse; consequently the manufacture has kept pace with it, and, instead of producing stockings equal in goodness and fineness, and much cheaper than those imported from Wales, they now seldom exceed 2s. per pair. Bindon Blood, Esq. lately of Riverston, introduced the South Down breed of sheep, as likely to bring back the wool to its former fine staple; the first cross alone between these and the native sheep has produced wool nearly as fine as South Down. As yet the breeders of that part of the county do not see the advantage of the cross; judging only by the eye, they think them too small, and the bone too fine, not considering, that a sheep, covered with wool seven or eight inches long, must appear much larger than one, whose wool is only two. A hogget ram of each breed was weighed by Mr. Blood; the eye would judge the new Leicester to be at least 50 lbs. heavier than the South Down, for, besides the greater length of wool, it was in higher condition,

condition, being fed on the best ground near the house, whilst the South Down had just come from a very poor pasture in Burrin; yet to the astonishment of a new-light breeder very much prepossessed against the South Down, the new-light sheep weighed only 10 lbs. more than the South Down, and the wool of the last was worth at least 10*s.*, whilst the other was worth only about 5*s.*; the gentleman, who was present, was so convinced, that he has purchased several breeding ewes from Mr. Blood, and intends to encrease his stock on his ground in Burrin. I would not be understood to mean, that this breed would be the most beneficial on every kind of soil; I only wish to press the matter at present on the minds of those breeders, who possess large tracts of ground producing a short scanty bite.

I have the authority of a very eminent stocking manufacturer in Dublin to state, that, if a hall was established in some central situation, and an honest intelligent inspector appointed, and some person of capital were to embark in the business, the manufacture could be brought to such a pitch of perfection as not only to supply the whole consumption of Ireland, but to open a trade to all other parts of the world, and enable us to undersell the English and Scotch manufacturers in their own markets.* The late Sir Lucius

* One town alone in Scotland exports knit stockings to the amount of above 100,000l.

Lucius O'Brien attempted to establish a serge manufactory at Corrofin, but, after spending a considerable sum, and making some progress, it has totally declined.

A manufactory of coatings, &c. is established at Ennis by Mr. Carney; I have seen some of his beaver coating at 11*s.* 4½*d.* per yard, and think it superior to any sold in Dublin for a much higher price. He informs me, that a much finer kind of wool than either that of Burrin or Cunnamara is produced in the remote western part of this county, where it has not been *improved* by a cross of coarse-woolled Leicester sheep; it sells for a guinea per stone, when the other wools of the country sell for fifteen shillings; of what incalculable benefit would a few South Down rams be in this country, and what a blessing would the absentee landlord confer by sending over a few to his poor tenants?

Mr. O'Brien of Ennis has lately established a broad cloth and beaver manufactory, with all the modern machinery for saving labour, and manufactures about 2000 stone of wool. The two Mr. O'Keefes also work up about the same quantity into serges, which, after supplying the home demand, they send to Limerick, &c. &c. A small blanket manufactory is also established at Ennis, but wants capital to extend it to meet the demand.

Twenty years ago Killaloe had a very flourishing trade

trade in stuffs, camblets, and serges, which employed above 150 hands; they were allowed 5*s.* per week by their employers for provisions: in consequence of this and the fostering care of former bishops, two markets were held in the week, and well supplied; since the total annihilation of that trade, and owing to every species of neglect and contempt, there is now no market, nor any kind of trade or manufactures. A good deal of wool is bought by jobbers, and sold in the county of Galway in small quantities to women, who manufacture it into flannels and frizes; these are again purchased by perhaps the same jobbers, or those of Galway and Loughrea for about 11*d.* per bandle of thirty inches, and carried to the North of Ireland, where they are sold for about 1*d.* a yard profit.

A considerable number of coarse hats are manufactured near Skarriff; they are in great estimation all over the country, and sell at from 3*s.* 9½*d.* to 5*s.* 5*d.*; they are dyed with alder bark, and twigs, and logwood, but principally the first.

A considerable quantity of kelp is manufactured on the extensive shores this county possesses; it is generally made in so careless and dishonest a manner, that the value is considerably less than that of Scotland or other countries; when it sells in Scotland for 6*l.* per ton, it only brings in Ireland 4*l.* per ton; so far are they from clearing the sea-weed

from sand, shells, or any other extraneous substances, I am informed by Mr. Molony of Kiltannon, that stones of a particular kind, and technically called *kelp stones*, are broken small, and added to the ignited mass, forming so complete an union as not to be distinguished by the eye, when the kelp is offered for sale. I have added a piece of the stone to the Dublin Society's museum. Ashes produced by burning weeds, thorns, briars, &c. are frequently sold; in a powdered state they generally bring 8*d.* per gallon; they are usually made into very hard cakes with water, about eight inches in diameter and two inches thick, weighing about 3 lbs., and are sold for about 4*d.* each; before using they are well burned, which is nearly pursuing the chemical process for making pearl-ashes.*

Sect. 15. *State of mills of every kind.*

The mills, that dress flour, are those of

Clifden,	Skarriff, also a rape-mill,
Ennis,	Cloundegad,
Six-mile-bridge, (not now at work,)	Kilrush,
	Newpark,
Derragh,	Newmarket.

Grist-mills.

* I am informed by Mr. Donald Stewart, that the cultivation of the plant, that produces the barilla ashes, could be carried on in many parts of the western coast with very great advantage.

Grist-mills.

Ennis,	Annacoragh,
Skarriff,	Derry,
Innistymon,	Donogan,
Six-mile-bridge,	Ballye,
Ardsallas,	Blackwater,
Ballylyon,	Killaloe,
Inchiquin,	Cregg,
Ballykilty,	Ranagha,
Dunbeg,	Newmarket.

Tuck-mills.

Riverston,	Woodmount,
Innistymon,	Donagon,
Ennis,	Kilrush,
Ballylyon,	Ballye,
Ballykilty,	Cloundegad,
Dunbeg,	Killaloe,
Annacoragh,	Ardsallas.
Derry,	

The tuck-mills receive 1*d.* per bandle of twenty-seven inches for milling; a piece shortens about one-third in the operation, sometimes more, or less, according to the use intended to be made of it, or the fancy of the owner of the cloth; these

mills are of very rude construction, and almost always use more water than necessary, from the improper construction of their water-wheels, and the bad condition, in which they are generally kept; they are mostly a great nuisance in a country, throwing back water on great tracts of ground, and converting that water, which would manure many thousand acres of ground, to a purpose, that could be equally well effected by wind. The rape-mill at Skarriff is conducted by Mr. James Flannery; I was informed he could procure as much seed as he can manufacture. It appeared to me, that he lost much of the oil from want of sufficient pressure, and I have no doubt his rape-cake would make excellent manure, from the quantity of oil remaining in it. This mill is highly useful, as an inducement to the cultivation of rape in bogs. The river Ougarnee, running through Six-mile-bridge into the Shannon, is one of the best calculated I have seen for extensive manufactures; the supply is equal to any expenditure of water, in the midst of a fine corn country, and contiguous to Limerick, Ennis, Six-mile-bridge, the Shannon, &c. &c. From Ballymacastle to Six-mile-bridge the fall is so rapid, that there could be a mill erected at every hundred yards.

Sect. 16. *State of plantations and planting.*

Few countries want planting more than this, many miles square frequently occurring with scarcely a tree to enliven the dreary scene, and in situations which, from their extreme rockiness, are fit for little else; as the fissures of the limestone-rocks generally take a perpendicular direction, and are generally filled with a rich, light, black earth, there can be no doubt of success; indeed, if any doubt could remain, it must vanish, when the growth of those accidentally produced is observed, and it has been handed down by documents, and by tradition, that those very rocks, which I recommend to be planted, have at remote periods been covered with woods; even some old people recollect woods growing, where wool only is now produced. In many places, if protected from the ravages of sheep and goats, the natural growth of oak, ash, quicken, hazel, thorn, &c. &c. would in a very few years clothe these naked rocks with a luxuriant growth.*

The shelter afforded by these crags is also of infinite use in a country so much exposed to storms from the Atlantic

* One Reedy, a small farmer in Burrin, brought some seedling ash and quicken from Dublin about twenty years ago; the place, in which he planted them, was so destitute of earth, that he was obliged to bring mould from a neighbouring bog to cover the roots; they are now worth in general more than five shillings per tree, in ground not worth one shilling per acre.

Atlantic ocean, the effects of which are frequently seen for many miles inland, even to the eastern extremity of Ireland; this, though a bar to planting in small groupes, or dotting with single trees in exposed situations, does not prevent planting in large masses, provided the trees are planted near to each other; there are few situations, where trees will not grow, if this rule is observed; for, though the western side of every plantation, however deep it may be, will certainly be injured, and the tops of the trees will form an inclined plane, yet within this they will grow as freely as in any sheltered situation of equally good soil. At any future period, when thinning is necessary, these outside injured trees should be scrupulously preserved, for the certain consequence of removing them would be the death of those they protected; where the screen has grown so as to afford shelter, and even on the eastern side of hills, any grouping or dotting, that taste or fancy (they are by no means synonymous,) may suggest, can be without apprehension of failure executed; but before this period, to attempt it would be loss of time, trees, and reputation. Many instances of this mistake may be seen in this county, as well as in every other part of Ireland. From their impatience to obtain shelter, too many are tempted to plant trees of some growth; this can be done only in very sheltered

situations,

situations, with but few kinds of trees, and with those only, that have grown in situations equally exposed; but, without considering this necessary precaution, trees are frequently taken from plantations, where they have been sheltered, and planted on the tops of hills to linger out an existence for a few years.*

Bindon Blood, Esq. has now nearly finished the planting of upwards of eighty acres of rocky and light soil, the greater part of it worth very little for agricultural purposes; the plantation consists of oak, elm, beech, birch, Scotch and spruce fir, alder, sycamore, pine-aster, &c. &c. but chiefly larch and ash, as the most valuable. If other gentlemen pursued the same plan with equal spirit and intelligence, this county would soon wear a new appearance, and the shelter afforded by such extensive plantations would contribute not only to the improvement of the adjoining land, but materially to that of stock of every description. I wish most sincerely I could say any thing, that would turn the thoughts of young gentlemen to this profitable and charming study; how much more gratifying, than any thing they can experience in lounging about the streets of Ennis, a town where of all others there is less amusement (if a wretched billiard-table, and a coffee-house without

* It is fortunate for posterity, that the expence and difficulty put limits to this folly; in this respect I must consider Mr. Boutcher's publication to have done much mischief.

without coffee or tea, and a reading society without books, are excepted) than in most towns in Ireland.

William Burton, Esq. of Clifden, has also planted extensively on some picturesque hills near his house, which in a few years will encrease the beauty of his charming situation, on the banks of the lake of Inchiquin, a situation, that in this county stands unrivalled for picturesque beauty, and variety of outline: he is now preparing to make considerable additions to his designs.

Mr. O'Hara has made some extensive and elegantly sketched plantations on the banks of Lough Graney.

At Springmount, the estate of Mr. Arthur, in the barony of Tullagh, some extensive plantations have been made, and, as the road runs through them, they are very ornamental.

Mr. Arthur has some very fine-shaped hills near Glenomera, that would appear with fine effect, if they were planted, and the valley thrown under water.

Sir Edward O'Brien is making very extensive plantations; in 1806 alone he planted upwards of thirty acres. Larch were planted late in spring, and succeeded better than most others; this valuable property I have often experienced.

Captain Massey's woods of Doone near Broadford are under very bad management; according to the general

general practice of Ireland, several shoots are growing from one stem; cattle are allowed to graze amongst them, and browse on the tender shoots; yet I dare say there is a person dignified with the pompous title of *wood-ranger*.

The most extensive plantations (they can scarcely be called woods) are at Cratilow, near Limerick; they are divided as follows:

	Acres.
Mr. Henry O'Brien, -	300
Lord Conyngham, -	170
Marquis of Headfort, -	130
Colonel Monsell, - -	80
Mr. Blood and Mr. Creagh,	100
	780

They are all under a wretched system of management: the greater part (indeed I believe all) are grazed; many are filled with stunted oak, with several shoots growing from one stool, and multitudes of birch occupying the place, where that valuable tree, larch, would flourish; but birch being the natural production of the soil, and raised without trouble to the wood-ranger, is permitted to remain by the proprietors, who never see them. I am informed, that nearly one half of the trees are of this kind; what the loss is to the proprietor may be easily estimated, when it is known, that a birch tree at

forty years' growth would not be worth more than about ten shillings, allowing for the decrease in value where the quantity in one place is above 700 acres; whilst larch of the same age would be well worth from three to four guineas. Now supposing only 500 trees to be changed on each acre, it would make the following difference in favour of the larch, valued at only 3*l.*; besides, there never can be too many larch for the demand, so near water carriage, and as foreign timber is growing daily dearer.

500 larch, at 5*s.* — — —	£.1500
500 birch, at 10*s.* — — — —	250
	£.1250
Multiplied by only	700
	£.875,000

This becomes a serious consideration to a man, who looks forward to his family. If I have valued the birch too low, any deduction can be made; at the same time from the price, that foreign timber is now sold for, and the uncertainty of a future supply from the North of Europe, it is much more probable, that the larch would be worth 5*l.* per tree, which would make the difference not less than the enormous sum of 1,575,000*l.* I am well convinced that, if larch had been planted in these extensive woods instead of oak, for which much of the ground is very unfit, the profit would be superior, to a very large

large amount.* I do not suppose there is in the whole of these woods a single tree, that could be called timber, or ever likely to be such; this predilection for oak in every kind of soil, where larch or ash would thrive much better, has occasioned an immense loss to individuals, and to the country at large. From the above sketch some little idea may be formed, what the aggregate loss of Ireland has been, by planting oak on stony shallow soils.

Many gentlemen are planting a little ornamentally, but the gentlemen, whom I have before mentioned, are amongst the very few, who have planted for posterity.

Pine-aster is particularly to be recommended for exposed situations; it stands singly opposed to the western winds, where every other kind is either killed, or injured, and I have every reason to think, from the exposed situations, in which fir timber has been found buried, that it is this species of pine, and not Scotch fir, as generally imagined.

In the excellent Survey of Londonderry, p. 424, Mr. Sampson recommends the black sallow, (salex caprea,) for its great hardiness in situations exposed

* Strabo mentions larch 8 feet in diameter; and in Gilpin's Forest Scenery, vol. 1. p. 74, it is stated, that larch 120 feet long are floated from Valais through the lake of Geneva, and down the Rhone, to supply ships of war with masts. For a full account of this invaluable tree I refer the reader to Dr. Anderson's Essays, p. 220, Dublin edition.

to the north-west wind; Norway maple is also remarkably hardy.* In the county of Sligo, the Carolina poplar (populus angulata) bears the blast from the Atlantic ocean better than most trees; near Dublin, the tender shoots are very frequently injured by frost.

There were formerly extensive orchards in this county, especially near Six-mile-bridge, and a few still remain; many young apple-trees have been lately planted. Very fine cider is made here from a great variety of kinds mixed in the pressing, and not, as is generally imagined, from caccagea or any particular sort; apples are frequently purchased in the county of Limerick and elsewhere, and manufactured into cider: it is in such deserved repute, that it is generally bought up by the neighbouring gentlemen for their own use and as presents to their friends, the price usually about five guineas per hogshead. I have frequently drank this cider after being kept four years in bottle. I do not know, that there is any thing peculiar in the mode of making; if there is, any inquiries would only lead to error, as every maker has secrets, that he will not divulge, but I believe the grand secret lies in having the apples ripe, free from any taint, and in preventing every fermentation

* I found two or three varieties of sallows growing in the rocks on the coast near Miltown-Malbay, exposed to every blast from the Atlantic.

mentation but the first, or saccharine one, and in bottling it at this period, and preventing the smallest mixture of the sediment.

SECT. 17. *State of the effects of encouragement heretofore given by the Dublin Society, particularised in the annexed list, and any improvement, which may occur for future encouragement, particularly for the preservation of trees when planted.*

THE following gentlemen received premiums for planting from the Dublin Society in the years annexed to their names:

James Molony, Esq. in 1785, 1786, 1789, 1793, and 1794; his plantations have been well preserved.

Sir Joseph Peacock for planting oak, now completely destroyed by cattle.

The late Charles M'Donnel, Esq. 1789; well preserved and flourishing.

Robert O'Hara, Esq. 1790 and 1791; well preserved and beautiful,

Boyle Vandeleur, Esq. 1795; well enclosed, and very thriving.

There are some trifling plantations mentioned in the list of premiums granted, that I did not see, particularly for raths, which I confess I never wish to see planted, whilst they are permitted to retain their present round shape; the money granted for the

the above premiums amounts to 403*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*, and seems to have been very justly expended, except that given to Sir Joseph Peacock in 1793, whose plantation has been quite ruined by cattle, if it was the one, that was shewn to me in the barony of Tullagh. I beg leave to suggest that, as the public mind is now sufficiently pointed to the subject, and the value of plantations so well ascertained, a discontinuance of these premiums, and the converting of the fund to some other beneficial purpose, would be eligible.

I beg also to mention, that giving a premium for oak without limiting, or at least advising the proper soil, is so much money thrown away; for some of the plantations I have seen are upon dry, rocky, shallow hills, where larch would have been infinitely more valuable.

What a reproach to the county, that in twenty-five years, one of such extent, and where trees are so much wanting, has had only ninety-six acres planted! It may be said, that this is only the quantity, that were planted for premiums, but I am convinced there has been very little more planted to the year 1795; of what has been planted since I have no account; but, except the plantations of Sir Edward O'Brien, Bindon Blood, Esq. and William Burton, Esq. the number is very small indeed.

Whilst

Whilst a whole county in twenty-five years has had only ninety-six acres planted, an individual in Scotland has, in fifteen years, planted 3005$\frac{1}{2}$ acres. We learn from the Transactions of the Society of Arts, that the Earl of Fife planted the following trees in fifteen years, viz.

Oak, - -	196,973
Larch, -	181,813
Ash, - - -	57,500
Elm, - - -	55,600
Sweet chesnut, -	64,100
Beech, - -	192,679
Sycamore, - -	50,000
Birch, - -	231,813
Alder, - -	31,500
Hazel, - -	47,200
Laburnum, -	51,100
Poplar, - -	10,000
Willow, - -	15,000
Spruce fir, - -	10,000
Silver fir, - -	10,000
Scotch fir, - -	3,668,420!
Total,	4,874,198

The first thing, that strikes me on this amazing extent of planting, is the immense loss, that must accrue to the heirs of Lord Fife from planting such a large

a large proportion of Scotch fir,* and other trees of inferior value to larch. The following list shews it at one view.

Scotch fir -	3,668,420
Birch, - -	231,813
Hazel, - -	47,200
Poplar, - -	10,000
	3,957,433

By referring to the remarks on the woods of Cratilow, p. 273, some estimate may be formed of the many hundred thousand pounds Lord Fife's heirs will lose by this erroneous method of planting.

We are gratified also with the measurement of some of the trees at twenty-five years growth, taken three feet from the ground.†

SOIL.	Kinds of trees.	Length of trunk.	Height.	Circumference 3ft. from the ground.	
		Feet.	*Feet.*	*Feet.*	*Inches.*
Loam and clay bottom,	Oak.	12	25 to 30	2	9½
Light black earth, ...	Elm.	13	30 to 35	5	4
Heavy wet ground,.....	Ash.	20	35 to 40	3	9
Dry sandy soil, ...	Beech.	14	30 to 35	3	8
Good heavy loam,	Larch.	...	46	6	3
	Silver fir.	...	44½ ...	6	8

The

* Previous to the year 1788, when these trees were planted, Scotch fir was quite the rage in Scotland, but, since that, larch has assumed its deservedly high rank amongst timber trees.

† It would be exceedingly useful, if this distance from the ground was the established standard, as many errors are committed by measuring nearer to the ground.

The superiority of the larch is conspicuous here, and in a soil not the best adapted for it, a heavy loam, as also the great inferiority of the oak in a soil well adapted to it.

These plantations were well enclosed with walls, measuring in length upwards of forty English miles.*

When I inform my readers, that the Earl of Egremont, Marquis of Thomond, Lord Conyngham, Marquis of Buckingham, Lord Milton, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Westby, and a long etcetera of absentees have thousands of acres of waste land, as capable of being planted as Lord Fife's estate, what will they think?

Sect. 18. *State of nurseries in the county, and extent of sales.*

There is a small one at Newhall in the barony of Islands, and another has been lately established near Kiltannon by Mr. Molony's late gardener; as it is only in its infancy, the sales are but trifling; when completed, it will be of great use to the country: the proprietor has been for many years in England, and pays great attention to the propagation of the

* If to the loss Lord Fife sustains, by planting trees of inferior value, is added that he will suffer by planting only 1230 trees on the acre (Scotch) instead of 6000 or 7000, the amount will be astonishing; not only from ground unoccupied by trees, but from the inferior value of the Scotch fir, whilst permitted to grow into large side branches, that will produce timber, all knots, and of little value.

best kinds of fruit trees; but to the disgrace of the county he already begins to complain of want of punctuality in payments; strange, that this disgrace should attach to the gentlemen of the county, who are so wealthy! but it is the well-founded complaint of every nurseryman in Ireland; I have had a severe trial of it myself formerly. At present trees are generally bought at the nurseries in the county of Galway, Limerick, or from Dublin, and many in Scotland, especially seedlings. No person, who intends to plant extensively, should depend on any nursery but his own; the superiority is not so much in saving money, as in saving time, and in being certain that the plants do not lie any time out of the ground, and also that many kinds difficult to move can be carried with balls of earth to their roots, which ensures their growth. This is particularly desirable in pine-aster, one of the most valuable trees we possess in bleak exposures; it is generally planted in small pots for the purpose of preserving the earth entire, which makes the planting of it on an extensive scale too expensive. It has been asserted by a reverend gentleman, of some celebrity as an improver of land, that every particle of mould should be carefully shaken off every species of tree previous to planting; every gardener's labourer knows, that as much as possible should be preserved.

served. This is akin to an assertion of another gentleman, who insists that cattle and sheep are not fond of white clover!

SECT. 19. *Price of timber, and state of it in the county.*

ASH, from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* per foot.

Oak, very little (if any) to cut, that could be sold by the foot.

Elm, very little, from 3*s.* to 4*s.* per foot.

Beech, from 3*s.* to 4*s.* per foot.

Couples for cabins, from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*

Stretchers or thevauns, ten or twelve feet long, from 5*s.* to 6*s.* per dozen.

Oak stakes to support the wattling of eel-weirs, from 5*s.* to 6*s.* per dozen.

Oak wattles for eel-weirs, from 5*s.* to 10*s.* per hundred; they are usually split down the middle, and are generally brought from Tinneranna to Killaloe.

Sallows for making baskets, 2*s.* 2*d.* per hundred.*

Scollops of hazel, &c. 6*d.* per hundred.

Pair of baskets for a horse, which a man will make in a day, 3*s.* 3*d.*

* About 200 sallows of two years' growth will make a turf-kish of a cubic yard.

A turf-kish, which he will make in a day, from 4*s.* to 5*s.*

A hurdle, seven feet long by five feet broad, from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 4*d.*

Tubs for butter, twenty-one inches, 4*s.* 4*d.*

Do. nineteen inches, 3*s.* 9½*d.*

Firkins, 3*s.* 9½*d.*

Oak bark (1807) from 20*l.* to 22*l.* 15*s.* per ton.

Sallow and birch bark, 15*l.* per ton.

In some places, birch bark only 8*l.* per ton.

No price for mountain ash bark, its value not known by tanners.

Bog timber consists of fir, oak, and yew, but chiefly fir and oak; in red bogs fir is generally found, and in black bogs oak predominates. Fir timber is frequently found of very large dimensions; most of the farmers' houses near bogs are roofed with this timber, which, if kept dry, is everlasting, and is always preferred to oak for inside work. A tree of this kind was lately found in a bog near Kilrush; it was purchased by Mr. Patterson of that town for 14*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*; it measured at the thickest end thirty-eight inches in diameter, and at upwards of sixty-eight feet long, thirty-one inches; it was very fine sound timber, and produced him upwards of 36*l.*; by age and the action of the atmosphere it had lost so much of its original bulk, that the part preserved was merely the heart, and not near half its

its original size. There was another of immense size lately found near Mount Callan; I could not ascertain the dimensions, but was informed that, when a cross-cut saw of good length was brought, it was thicker than the saw was long. The manner of finding these trees in bogs is somewhat curious; very early in the morning, before the dew evaporates, a man with a long small sharp spear goes into the bog, and, as the dew never lies on the part over the trees, be it ever so deep, he can ascertain their length, and on putting down his spear can easily find, whether they are sound or rotten; if sound, he marks with a spade the spot where they lie, and at his leisure proceeds to extricate them from their bed.

A great number of Scotch fir in hedge-rows may be seen near Bridgetown, the estate of Captain Brown. I only mention this to shew the absurdity of planting this tree in single rows; they are all knots and worth very little; however in a country so destitute of trees they have a chearful appearance.

Alder is a timber generally despised; but, if it is of a sufficient age, it is little inferior to mahogany; it has many other perfections; it makes the very best bolsters for cars, and for bushing the eye of the lower mill-stone round the spindle, as it never takes fire by friction; when used for handles for tools

tools it does not blister the hands; and the leaves and bark are so disagreeable to cattle, that they never browze on it.

SECT. 20. *Quantity of bog and waste ground—the possibility and means of improving them, and the obstacles to their improvement.*

Bog forms in some baronies a very large part of the surface, principally in those of Tullagh, Moyferta, Ibrickan, and Clounderalaw; in the rocky barony of Burrin as great a scarcity prevails, in so much that they are obliged in the maritime parts to import turf from Cunnamara. In *flat* situations bog is many feet deep, but that produced on mountains is not generally so deep, running from one foot to four or five: the bogs are all capable of improvement, at a moderate expence, particularly those situated on mountains. In the baronies of Ibrickan and Moyferta there are several miles square of bog, reaching from near Kilrush to Dunbeg. As there is water carriage for boats of thirty or forty tons to the head of Poulanisherry harbour, near three miles from the Shannon, lime could be easily brought by the boats, that supply Limerick from that place with turf for fuel.

The limestone could be brought back from Askeaton and Aglvenish, and laid down for about a shilling

shilling per ton in the midst of this region of bog; this, if the stone is good, will make about six barrels of lime; breaking the stone and burning 1½d. per barrel; the fuel a mere trifle; so that, if the boat carries only thirty tons, two acres of ground may be reclaimed for ever by each cargo; calculations are always liable to error, but every person can make deductions or additions, as circumstances may direct. In the county of Wexford, lime is purchased with avidity at 3s. 9½d. per ton, and drawn into the country twelve or fourteen miles, and frequently it is brought on horses' backs; and we are informed in the Survey of Wexford, p. 97, "that "the poor people on the borders of Mount Leinster have a journey to go for their lime, which "occupies them two days. With a poor wretched "horse they go in this manner to the lime-kilns, "bringing a barrel of lime at a time; and this "journey they repeat forty times, in order to bring "forty barrels for manuring an acre of this land." Will it be believed in the county of Wexford, that a rich county of Clare farmer refused to draw it a mile on a good road, to improve a mountain farm, where he had turf to burn it on the spot, and nothing to be paid for the stone?

Many would speculate on these bogs, but they are either leased, and thrown in as useless with other lands; or, where they are not leased, though

acknowledged

acknowledged by the proprietors to be totally unproductive, and not worth a shilling an acre, yet these gentlemen, when applied to, will not give such lease as will encourage a monied man to venture his property on their improvement, nor will they improve them themselves; this dog in the manger disposition prevails in every part of Ireland, and has retarded the improvement of bog more than all other obstacles put together.

Between Cahirmurphy and Kilmaley many miles square are almost without inhabitants; in a ride of upwards of eight miles I saw only one bird, a kite; yet the greater part of this dreary waste could be cultivated, and the entire could be planted; if judiciously executed, and on a large scale, this could be done for a moderate sum, and would be an immense property in a few years. In the few spots, where the ground has been cultivated by some herds, excellent crops are produced.

In the barony of Tullagh many advances towards improvement have been made by small farmers propagating rape, but scarcely any one thinks of draining, or improving by a top-dressing of lime, limestone-gravel, or marle, which in many places are to be had in any quantity; but there is no improvement carried on by any person of property on a scale sufficiently large to deserve notice, nor have I indeed in any part of Ireland observed a systematic

systematic and steady pursuit of this valuable improvement; it has been a mere spurt, and probably would never have been thought of, if some professional man had not happened to come into the neighbourhood.

Shortly after the celebrated Mr. Elkington came to Ireland, we could hear of nothing but the absolute certainty of draining immense tracts of bog by means of a *few auger-holes*; the bog of Allen was a mere trifle; but it was found, that the old method pursued by all those, who have made this their study, of intercepting the water from higher ground, was the chief mode adopted by him, and the auger only an occasional assistant; and what he complained of I have often experienced, that most Irish gentlemen soon grow tired of the expence, and expect that, the moment a bog is drained, it must become green; this it was, that disgusted Mr. Elkington with Irish gentlemen, who, he found, always had their ears open to some follower or wiseman of the old school, who constantly attended at their elbow, and set their faces against any new improvement they did not understand, or of which they were not the advisers. This Irish practice has gone so far in some places, as to oblige Mr. Hill, the intelligent drainer to the Farming Society of Ireland, to refuse to act where he will not be

permitted to finish his drains by his own men; otherwise they would be stopped, from interested motives, the practice decried, and his character injured. I have frequently told a gentleman's wiseman what I intended to do for the improvement of the place, (I detest the idea of professional secrets,) and next day, in walking over the ground with both parties, I have heard my ideas detailed with great composure, as the production of his own brain, and poor I was thrown completely into the shade, whilst at dinner the master exulted in having such a clever man; disgust would not let me come to any explanation, and I have generally left them to enjoy each other.

It is curious to hear the objections made to the drainage of bogs; frequently it is said by those, whose education should give them more enlightened ideas, that it would be impossible to drain some bogs, that it would take half a century to drain them, that they never would repay the expence, with numberless objections equally groundless. I never saw a bog, that could not be drained, otherwise it would be a lake; the chief difficulty lies in obtaining the consent of different proprietors to join in the drainage, or permit a cut to be made through their ground; and, until an act of parliament is obtained to oblige proprietors of land

to

to permit an outlet to be cut through their lands, on paying the damage, to be ascertained by a jury, extensive drainages or irrigation will never be effected. I beg leave to press this on the comprehensive mind of the Right Hon. Mr. Foster, as one of great national benefit, as it is highly probable, that extensive speculations will be made on this most necessary improvement in a country possessing so many hundred thousand acres of bog and mountain. To improve bogs on a large scale, companies must be formed, and something like the mode of conducting canals must be pursued, and permanent sets of men constantly employed; the petty mode at present pursued, where perhaps at the most ten acres are drained in a season, (with no small share of exultation even on this *patch*,) will not alter the face of the country for several centuries. The bog of Allen, containing between two and three hundred thousand acres, forms but a small part of those of Ireland. I have been furnished with many statements, aided by my own experience, of the expence and profit of this improvement in various parts of Ireland; and the general result has been, that, at least in the third year, often the first, all expences are paid, and land, for which no rent could be obtained, has become worth from one to two guineas per acre. It is astonishing, that monied men, who are daily on the

watch to purchase land, should be so blind to their own interest and to that of their posterity, as to lay out money at six per cent., often less, instead of improving their own bogs, absolutely creating land, and receiving at least ten per cent. for money, which they have in their pockets.

When a monied man is about to purchase an estate, instead of procuring the assistance of some person of skill in land and its capabilities to view it, as practised in England, and point out where perhaps great improvement may be made at a moderate expence, being totally ignorant of the quality of land himself, he perhaps employs some person, who knows more about drawing leases than draining ground, to inspect it; the report being favourable, and the title clear, he closes the bargain, leaving the improvement of the estate to those, who from want of either means or skill, or perhaps of a lease of sufficient length, leave that ground, which under a judicious drainage, and gravelling or liming, might be made of ten times its present value, a mere caput mortuum at the termination of the lease; and to encrease the evil, perhaps one thousand acres of bog or mountain are thrown in with the farm as of no value, which perhaps an expenditure of 500*l.* would make worth annually 1000*l.*, and the crops cultivated during the improvement, very probably, would pay much more

more than all the expences; whilst in the hands of the tenant it produces little or no profit to him, nor rent to the landlord.

A considerable quantity of turf is brought from Poulanisherry to Limerick, though a water carriage of upwards of forty miles; for this purpose, immense ricks are always ready on the shore; sometimes the boats bring back limestone from Askeaton or Aghnish, but merely for the purpose of those buildings, that are advancing so rapidly in Kilrush; none is brought for the improvement of the improvement of the immense bogs, from which they dig the turf. It is a curious circumstance that, within a few yards of the rocky shore at Spanish point near Miltown Malbay, several feet of good turf may be cut, and equally so, that long before this it has not been reclaimed by the sand, which is within a few perches of it.

Although very great quantities of ground have been taken from the Shannon and Fergus, including all the rich corcasses, yet a very large portion still remains under the dominion of the water; Sir Edward O'Brien and Mr. Colpoys have it in contemplation to embank upwards of one hundred acres; I saw the ground, and do not entertain a doubt of its practicability, the water, I understand, not rising more than about seven feet in spring tides. It is to be hoped that, when they do reclaim

claim it, it will not be in the same wretched, unstable, unscientific manner, that such works are usually effected here; they will also, I trust, make the necessary preparations for depositing the sediment of the rich waters of the Shannon and Fergus, as practised with such great success in England, where it is called warping or silting, by which in a very short period they would raise the surface of the ground many feet higher than it is at present, and greatly facilitate the drainage. The word *warping* is applied in agriculture to describe that species of irrigation, which deposits a quantity of sediment from the flowing tide, and which forms a stratum of soil or manure, when the waters have receded from it. This definition of the word appears to be chiefly limited to tide-water flowing from the sea, though the nature of the accumulation seems to be nearly the same with the *siltage* of fresh-water rivers, the redundancy of which, by way of distinction, is called *flooding*. The expence of warping will be greatly influenced by the situation of the lands, and the course and distance, which the warp is to be conducted. The expence per acre will depend greatly on the extent of land, which may be overflowed by one and the same set of drains and cloughs. Mr. Day of Doncaster thinks, that great quantities of land may be warped at so small an expence as from four to eight pounds per

English

English acre; and he states the advantages gained at various rates, from five to fifty pounds per acre, and considers the greatest advantage to arise from warping the worst and most porous land. Mr. Young, in his Survey of Lincoln, says, "the warp raises "the ground in one summer from six to eighteen "inches thick, and in hollow, or low places, two, "three, or four feet, so as to leave the whole "piece level." For a further account of this valuable improvement, see my Observations on the County of Dublin Survey, page 89 of the Appendix. It is necessary to remark, that the expence of executing this work in England includes the embankment as well as every thing else; but, as Sir Edward O'Brien and Mr. Colpoys mean to do this without any reference to warping, it should not be charged to that improvement, but merely the expence of two sluices, perhaps *5s.* per acre.

The bog and lake of Fenlow could be easily drained and improved, by deepening a small stream, that runs to Ballycar; but, though the proprietors have offered almost a carte blanche to the owner of the stream, he obstinately persists in a refusal; the stream is so very insignificant, that for the greater part of the year it would scarcely supply a grist or tuck-mill; yet a flour-mill on a large scale is in contemplation, and can never succeed, whilst the river Ougarnee is so very near. Can

any

any thing point out more plainly the necessity of an act to oblige proprietors of ground to permit drains for the general accommodation to run through their grounds? If canal companies had been left to the caprice or ill nature of individuals, we should not at this day have one of these noble works in either Ireland or England.

The great scene of improvement, (and which shews, what tenants will do when they get leases on moderate terms,) are the mountains between Killaloe and Broadford; the soil is a thin argillaceous one, on slate, mostly covered with short heath; it is usually let by the bulk to tenants, who have improved ground adjoining; they generally divide them into small farms, and let them at an advanced rent after they have improved them; for which purpose they commonly burn the surface, (if the landlord is not weak enough to prevent it,) and lime or marle, and plant potatoes; then a crop of barley for the private stills, after that a crop of oats; by this time they have accumulated manure, and begin to plant their potatoes in drills. It has become frequent lately, from the great increase of population, to give small portions of their grounds to sons and daughters on their marriage. It is, with a few exceptions, the only place in the county, where the cottagers have every appearance and reality of comfort and cleanliness; their cottages

are

are generally well thatched, and frequently white-washed, or at least the chimney, and always have half-doors to hang on in the day time, to keep out pigs, &c. &c.; with cow-houses and pig-styes. How very different from the grazing parts of the county, where poverty and filth may always be seen in great perfection, even at the very gates of many wealthy graziers! I am inclined to attribute something deleterious to the grazing system; look to all the rich lands in Ireland; do we not see in the proprietors the same indifference to the comforts of the cottiers? In the mountains above-mentioned Mr. Arthur of Glenomera obliges his tenants to lime, at the rate of sixty or eighty barrels per acre; the lime is brought from Donass, a distance of six miles, and costs the enormous sum of from 2*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per barrel, bad measure. I suppose Mr. Arthur either allows them for the lime, or gives them the land on such terms as to encourage this expenditure. The harvest began here this year (1807) on the first of September, and was most abundant; and, contrary to the usual complaint of mountain oats, it ripened all together; this may be justly attributed to the effect of calcareous manures. In the mountains near Skarriff they lime and marl, but not with the spirit they do near Broadford. This may in some measure be accounted for; they have all bishop's leases, a

species of tenure, that paralyses every exertion. Captain Hugh Brady allows his tenants any quantity of mountain, rent free, for twenty years, and also 30*s.* per acre for lime. The value of this manure is now becoming so well known, that the mountaineers carry it from O'Callaghan's mills, upwards of six miles.

SECT. 21. *Habits of industry, or want of it amongst the people.*

HABITS of industry are chiefly confined to the lower order of farmers and cottiers; great exertions are often made by this class in removing stones, and collecting manure, too often from the sides of the roads. The women in the neighbourhood of Corrofin and Innistymon are remarkably industrious, I wish I could say cleanly; you will scarcely ever see one of them without a stocking in her hand, which she continues to knit whilst walking a quick pace to market; and even in the market-house, whilst selling or buying, her fingers are never idle. Almost all the wool made into frize for the family is spun by the wife or daughters; their linen is also generally made at home. As to the industry of the wealthy graziers, it may be generally seen about their houses; it is not unfrequent, that a man, who pays 2000*l.* a year rent, has scarcely a gate or fence about his house, a very

very indifferent garden, with nothing in it but cabbages; often no cow-house; a collar to tie up a horse in a stable is a rarity, and in summer oats or hay are equally so. The industry of the upper classes consists more in accumulating farm to farm, and dashing in full gallop from one to the other, than in a steady improvement of what they have already, though vastly more lucrative. The streets of Ennis are often crowded with young loungers, that had much better stay at home and endeavour to redeem or at least improve that property, which the prodigality, or want of industry, of their ancestors has either deprived them of or encumbered; it would surely be more beneficial and amusing than the annoying the different shopkeepers with their "bald disjointed chat."*

"There are many middlemen remaining in this "county, whose habitations and land may be easily "found by every mark of indolence; such of "the windows, as are not stopped to evade the tax, "are small, with the few panes of glass remaining "either broken or their place supplied by paper, "or boards, or perhaps a rag or wisp of straw "or hay; the inside corresponds with the outer "appearance; decayed stairs, doors, and chimneys;

* Since writing the above, a coffee-room and billiard-table have been added to their amusements, which have taken a good many out of the streets.

"the ceilings of thin boards blackened by smoke "and dirt. The farm bears the same disgusting "appearance; the gates and fences in ruin; his "pastures and meadows bearing more rushes than "grass, and the meadows grazed until June; his "stock perhaps a cow or two, with as many half-"starved horses: it will scarcely be credited, that "men of this description have incomes of from "100*l.* to 500*l.* a year arising from the industry of "poor cottiers." The gentleman, who was so kind as to favour me with the above faithful picture, very justly calls them the drones of society. Yet these are the men, to whom the great landed absentee proprietors are fond of setting their lands, in preference to a tenantry, who, however deficient in skill or capital, always pay more, and with greater punctuality than these pests of society. Where a middleman takes waste ground, and, after improving it, relets it in divisions according to each man's capital, and lives on the land, shewing by his example the most beneficial course of crops, encouraging his tenants by procuring for them on reasonable terms grass-seeds and corn of the best kinds, and keeping for their use males of every species of useful animal, then he becomes one of the most beneficial members of the community; but such exceptions I fear are very few. It is painful to state that, if this last improving

proving tenant's lease expired, the former wretch, on giving 1*d.* an acre more, would get the preference; the highest bidder gets every thing from absentees, totally ignorant of what is going forward on their estates: and I presume to think, that a visit, and close inspection of their estates in Ireland, would not only redound to their credit, but to the increase of their rent-roll.

It is the fashion of the gentlemen of this county to accuse the labourers of want of industry, and of laziness; when they are working for themselves, there is no appearance of it; indeed, when working for others, at the low rates of wages they receive, they are like all men of the same class throughout Ireland; they will do as little as they can. In my professional pursuits I have had men of every county in Ireland working under me, and I have found, that the inhabitants of this county, and of Galway, do more work, and without that sulkiness and familiar impertinence (not proceeding from ignorance) of those in the neighbourhood of Naas, in the county of Kildare, and of Athboy, in the county of Meath, the former of whom got nine shillings per week, and were constantly on the watch to take every advantage; in short they were never satisfied with any thing.

The hurling matches, called *goals*, are very injurious to the morals and industry of the younger classes;

classes; after performing feats of activity, that would astonish a bread and cheese Englishman, they too often adjourn to the whiskey-house, both men and women, and spend the night in dancing, singing, and drinking until perhaps morning, and too often quarrels and broken heads are the effects of this inebriety; matches are often made between the partners at the dance; but frequently when pens they do not wait for the priest's blessing, and the fair one must apply to the magistrate, who generally obliges the faithless Strephon to make an honest woman of her. On the strand at Lehinch races for saddles and bridles are run almost every Sunday in summer, and the night generally concludes with dancing and drunkenness; they are become a great nuisance to those of the inhabitants, who are *christians*.

In general the people are remarkably peaceable, travelling at night being equally safe as in the day.

SECT. 22. *Use of the English language, whether general, or how far encreasing.*

THERE are very few, except in remote situations, that do not at least understand a little English, but from an apprehension of not speaking correctly they frequently pretend not to understand it:

it. I have often heard them declare in good English, that they could not speak a word of it; almost all the better kind of people speak Irish to the country people, but scarcely one of their sons is able to hold a conversation in this language; of course in the next generation it may be expected, that almost every person in the county will use the English tongue, which would certainly be a desirable object, as the sooner we assimilate with the English in every respect, the more likely we are to forget ancient prejudices, and to adopt their improvements in agriculture, manufactures, and every useful science. That the English language is encreasing, it may be necessary to observe, that the children of almost all those, who can speak scarcely any thing but Irish, are proud of being spoken to in English, and answering in the same, even though you may question them in Irish.

No Irish is spoken in any of the schools, and the peasantry are anxious to send their children to them for the purpose of learning English. I am informed very little pure Irish is spoken in this county, the present language being a jargon of Irish and English; therefore the sooner it is forgotten, the better. The encouragement of schools by the distribution of good books, at a low price, (not gratis,) with ink and paper, would in a few years do wonders, in making the English language become

become general. I do not recollect to have seen any of the useful little tracts, printed by the Society for promoting the comforts of the poor, in this county; the clergy should attend to this, if not too troublesome.

SECT. 23. *Account of towers, castles, &c. or places remarkable for any historical event.*

THE round towers, that have given rise to so many curious conjectures and disquisitions, are those of:

1. *Scattery Island.*—This tower is about 120 feet high, and, though split almost from the top to the bottom by lightning, is still standing, and is a very beautiful object, and an useful land-mark to seamen. There are also in this island the ruins of a castle, several churches, and a monastery, said to be founded by St. Patrick, who placed St. Senan over it; altogether they make a delightful landscape, viewed from Revenue-hill near Kilrush. This island is about three miles from the shore, and contains about 180 acres of choice land; it was formerly the see of a bishop, and part of Thomond called Clare, but in the 12th century was united to the see of Limerick. A priory was founded here by St. Senan in the 6th century, the monks of which were said to have been

been so chaste, that they never even looked at a woman, nor did they even suffer one to land in the island. It is recorded in St. Senan's life, that during his residence in the island, (which was then called Inis Cathay,) a ship arrived there, bringing fifty monks, Romans by birth, who were drawn into Ireland by the desire of a more holy life and a knowledge of the scriptures. This island, called also Inisgatha or Inisga, the island in the sea, situated in the mouth of the Shannon, one of the most convenient harbours for the Danish and Norwegian invaders, who generally came north about round Scotland, was for a long time a bone of contention between them and the Irish, and from the multitude of those round forts, said to be thrown up by the Danes* in the adjoining parishes in the west of Clare, it is likely, that the Danes were very strong in this quarter.

From the Annals of Munster, Act. 55. p. 542, we learn, that in the year 975 Brien Boroimhe king of Munster, at the head of twelve hundred Dalgais troops, assisted by Domnhall king of Joamhuein, recovered the island of Iniscattery from the Danes, by defeating Iomhar,† the Norman, and his two sons Amhlaib and Duibheann. Eight hun-

* They were erected long before the inronds of the Danes.

† The two words *Joamhuein*, and *Iomhar*, should have been *Toamhucin*, and *Tomhar*.

dred of the Danes, who fled thither for safety some time before, were slain in this battle. From this and other battles in Scattery, together with its containing formerly eleven churches and the priory, all with church-yards, some of which are popular burial-places to this day, the entire soil of this island is strewed with fragments of human bones. In some places, where the sea has worn away the cliff perpendicularly, a stratum of bones is visible, six or seven feet from the surface of the soil. The monument of St. Senan is still shewn here, and in the stone, that closes the top of the altar window of the largest church, is the head of the saint, with his mitre; it is somewhat defaced.

There is also a holy well in this island, resorted to by great numbers of devotees, who, as they term it, take their rounds about it annually on their bare knees, and it is a frequent practice for those, who cannot conveniently perform this penance, to pay at this and other holy wells a trifling gratuity to some person to perform this ceremony for them; I have known a woman to make a trade of this mummery.

The common people have a great veneration for this island and its ruins; they carry pebbles taken from it as preservatives against shipwreck, and the boatmen will not navigate a boat, that has not taken a round about Scattery in a course opposite the sun.

sun. They believe, that St. Senan or Shannon, as they call him, killed a desperate monster in this island, the stone image of which is still (to the disgrace of the priest and well informed Catholics) preserved in the gable of the Roman Catholic chapel of Kilrush over the altar.

2. *Drumkleeve*, in the barony of Islands, and parish of Drumkleeve, (omitted in Ledwich's Epitome of the Antiquities of Ireland.) About fifty feet remain at present; it is, as usual with all those towers, situated to the N. W. of the church; there is a moulding round the door, which is about twenty feet from the ground; the mortar quite worn away on the west side, but perfectly good on the east; on the west side about twenty-four feet from the ground there is a window, and about ten feet higher is a larger one; there is another window on the east side.

3. *Dysert*; called Dysert O'Dea, (from being in the ancient territory of the O'Dea's,) in the barony of Inchiquin, and parish of Dysert: about thirty feet of this tower remain; about twenty feet from the ground there is a door, and about ten feet higher the remains of another, at each of which the dimensions of the tower diminished. Remains of windows at different heights are seen, by which it seems to be quite different from some other towers, that have windows only

at or near the summit, as that of Kildare, and many other places; the workmanship also seems to be different from that of many others. It must be evident, that these towers were built at different periods, and for perhaps very different purposes; the most rude at remote, and those, in which ornaments have been attempted, many centuries after: that at Dysert has on the outside of the second story the remains of a projecting flag, like our modern belting course, running round the building, and about eight inches broad; it also appears to have had battlements.

4. *Kilnaboy*, in the barony of Inchiquin, and parish of Kilnaboy; about ten feet only remain; consequently, according to the general mode of building them, neither door nor window appears;* it stands to the north-west of the old church of Kilnaboy.

5. *Iniscailtre.*—This tower stands in Loughdeirgeart, a part of the Shannon, near Skarriff, in the barony of Tullagh, sometimes called Holy-island, and frequently the island of the seven churches: this was formerly celebrated as a burial-place, and for performing certain religious ceremonies, in so much that, so late as forty years ago, 10*l.* were annually paid, as rent for the ferry, to an ancestor of Mr. Wood of Mount Shannon; it contains twenty-four acres, at present rented by Mr.

* This tower has not been noticed by Dr. Beaufort or Dr. Ledwich.

Mr. O'Callaghan at 39*l.* per annum. Red-island near it contains four acres, and Bushy-island six acres.

CASTLES.

The barony of Burrin contains the castles of

Ballyvaughan,	Glaniny—inhabited,
Banroe,	Gragans,
Ballymurphy,	Lisselissey,
Ballynacraggy,	Muckenish,
Ballygannor,	Newtown—*a round castle*
Cappagh,	*on a square base.*
Castletown—inhabited,	Turlogh.

Corcomroe contains

Ballynalacken,	Kiltoral,
Glassie,	Inchevehy,
Dunmacfelim,	Glarin,
Doonamore,	Dough,
Ballyhanny,	Liscanor,
Cahircallaghan,	Derrymore,
Smith's-town—inhabited,	Ballyheragh.

Inchiquin contains

Cloneseleherny,	Bunnycapaun,
Cluanuhan,	Derryowen,
Carrownegowly,	Kilkeedy,
	Lemenagh,

Lemenagh,—a girl fell from the top of this castle; she killed a pig, on which she fell, and was herself not hurt.
Kilnaboy,
Inchiquin,
Tiermacbran,
Two at Rath, one not noticed by Mr. Pelham in his map.
Ballyportrea—inhabited,
Mabre,
Dromore,
Port,
Cragmagher,
Dysert—inhabited,
Moygowna,
Shally,
Ballygriffy,
Killinamonagh.

Islands contains

Clare,
Ballynicudagh,
Ballyhorege.

Clounderalaw contains

Clounderalaw,
Donogoroge,
Red-gap,
Colesmanstown,
Dangan,
Crownaghan,
Horse-island,
Cahirmurphy.

Bunratty contains

Bryans,
Clooney,
Fergus,—inhabited, and lately white-washed!
Dromoland,
Monane,
Orlen,
Cleynagh,
Cnapoge,

Cnapoge—the masonry of the stairs of black marble, uncommonly neat.
Raffolan,
Corbally,
Danganbrack,
Dromore,
Ballymarkanagh,
Granaghan,
Ballynacraggy,
Ralahine,*
Bunratty,
Clonloghan,
Smithstown,
Craggalough,
Henry,
Cratilow,
Ballinflea,
Castletown,
Drumon,
Meelick,
Dramline.

Tullagh contains

Fortanmore,
Teredagh,
Tomgrany,
Ballynahinch,
Cahir,
Inismahon,
Miltown,
Coolreath,
Lissefin,
Ballykeely,
Mountallion,
Terenane,
Kilkisshen,
Rossroe,
Mountcashel,
Cappagh,
Truigh,
Arrighnamore,
Newtown,
Rinnuagh,
Coolisteage,
Monegenagh.

Moyferta

* The Duke of Ormond was entertained here by an ancestor of Boyle Vandeleur, Esq.; on an ancient chimney-piece there was "Fear God, and remember the poor," in bas-relief.

Moyferta contains

Doonlickey,	Scattery,
Carrigaholt—inhabited,	Cloghansevan.

Ibrickan contains

Dunmore—inhabited,	Donogan,
Dunbeg,	Oarrush,
Trumree,	Moy.

Of these 118 castles, tradition says, the family of Macnamara built 57. It will not be expected, that a description be given of every petty castle, which the feuds of ancient days made necessary to protect usurpations and robberies, or of those numerous small castellated houses, dignified with the name of castle, which were built by the English settlers in Queen Elizabeth's and other reigns, to defend them against the just resentment of the natives; and though some individuals may be anxious, that an account of them should be detailed, it is probable few of the accounts would tend to the credit of the former possessors, and that they would hurt the feelings of the present ones; besides, as much of the information is traditional, little dependance can be placed on any account handed down by those, who were necessarily partial.*

Near

* I understand a gentleman of the county intends shortly to favour the public with a history of them; I wish him a good deliverance.

Near Raheens, built in the water, may be seen the castle, into which some ruffians conveyed a young lady, with intent to force her to marry one of them; she was immediately rescued by Henry Brady, Esq. of Raheens, and restored to her friends in perfect safety. A *tender-hearted jury* acquitted them of the felony.

Bunratty castle, anciently the seat of the Earls of Thomond, is one of the largest in the county, and is inhabited by Thomas Studdert, Esq.; it was built in 1277, and was either rebuilt or added to by Sir Thomas de Clare in 1597; it was besieged in 1305 but not taken; marks of cannon-shot are very visible in different parts of the wall, and several cannon balls have been found, one of which weighed 39lbs.; there was a small town here formerly; it was burned in 1314.

RATHS.

These abound in every part of the county; they are generally of a round form, and are composed of either large stones without mortar, or earth thrown up and surrounded by one or more ditches, on which was formerly placed a stake hedge; they are usually ascribed to the Danes, but it is highly probable many of them are of much more ancient origin, and that they have only been made use of by the Danes in their predatory incursions into this country,

who, finding their usefulness, may have imitated them; for, as they were easily formed, they answered the purposes of free-booters, who only came for the purpose of plunder. In General Vallancey's Prospectus of an Irish Dictionary the following explanation occurs: "The word *rath* signifies security, surety; see *mal*, riches, and *maladair*, a landholder. We find by the Breithamhuin laws, when a man was worth a certain number of cattle to be security to the chief for payment of the rent of a large tract of land, which might be set to others, he was obliged to erect a circular entrenchment of earth or stone, or partly of both, in token of his holding under the chief; this entrenchment was called *rath*, that is, security. The law allows the rath to be used as a sheep-fold, and for the better security of the sheep stakes were driven into the top of the entrenchment, and interwoven with bushes, brambles, &c.* When a maladair died, he was sometimes interred in the middle of the rath, and a moat was dug around (the outside commonly) to furnish earth for the *feart* or tumulus, and then it had the appearance of a moat. Some of these in the counties of Meath and Westmeath are planted

* It should be recollected that, as Ireland was almost all wood, it abounded with wolves and foxes; the former of which have been not very long extirpated, and the latter very much thinned.

" planted with trees, and make a beautiful ap-
" pearance. These raths remain at this day, and
" are most injudiciously called Danes forts. The
" Danes probably made a post of some, when si-
" tuated on a rising ground, as we did in the last
" rebellion; but when these injudicious antiquaries,
" that name them forts, find three or four together
" with the peripheries of their circles not half a
" stone's throw from each other, as in Salisbury plain,
" and in many parts of Ireland, or when they find
" a rath situated at the foot of a hill, which com-
" mands the rath, can these antiquaries say they
" were erected for offence or defence? These puny
" antiquaries may rest assured that, until they study
" the oriental languages, and can translate the old
" laws of Ireland, they can know little or nothing
" of the antiquities of this country."

Many of these raths have been formerly planted entirely with firs, which are now, from want of thinning, grown naked at the bottom, and are become very disagreeable objects. One of these *formal* looking groupes occupies the place, that formerly contained the palace or castle of Brian Boroimdhe, called Ceanchora.* In this castle, after he became sole monarch of Ireland in 1022, he received annually, as a tribute from the princes dependant on him, for maintaining his state, 2670 beeves,

* *Ceanchora* signifies the head of the weirs, and the first weir near Killaloe is nearly opposite to this place.

1370 hogs, 420 leads or tons of iron, 500 mantles, 365 tons of claret from the Danes of Limerick, and from those of Dublin 150 pipes or butts of other wine: this tax was called *Boroimdhe*, and was received at the time of All Saints and sent to Ceanchora; to this place was also brought the fine of 1000 of each kind of cattle, which he exacted from the Leganians, as a punishment for having joined the Danes. This place was destroyed by Domnhall Mac Ardgail prince of Tyrconnel, during the absence of Murtogh the grandson of Brien*. The king of Cashel received annually from Corcabhaiscin 200 beeves and 200 cows; from Corcomruadh 200 beeves and 200 cows, 200 mantles, with a fleet always ready; and when the king had occasion for the forces of his tributaries, or to wait on him at any of his general assemblies, he sent, amongst others, to the prince of Corcomruadh ten untamed horses, and a silk garment. Domnhall prince of Corcabhaiscin was killed at the battle of Clontarf on Good Friday 22d of April 1034.

When Sitricus the Danish tyrant demanded tribute from one of the Irish kings, he applied for assistance to the other chiefs, and was furnished by

* All traces of this palace are almost obliterated, by planting, levelling, and other *improvements*; thus one of the most interesting antiquities in Ireland has been spoiled by *modern taste*, that taste, which could permit hedges to be cut into different whimsical shapes, like those in the days of London and Wise.

by Corcabhaiscin with ten ships, and by Corcomruadh and Burrin with twenty, with which they sailed to Dundalk to the relief of their prince taken prisoner there; in the battle, which ensued, two princes of Burrin and Corcumruadh, Connor and Loughlin,* killed the two brothers of the tyrant, Tor and Magnus, but soon after died of their wounds.

CROMLECHS

Are to be seen chiefly in the barony of Burrin, though there are a few in the other baronies. There is one at Ballygannor about forty feet long and ten feet broad, of one stone; the side stones or flags are upwards of six feet deep, besides what is sunk in the ground. There is also one in the deer-park of Lemenagh, another on the commons of Kilnaboy, one at Tullynaglashin, one at Mount Callan called Altoir na Greine, (altar of the sun,) and one at Ballykisshen; this is a very remarkable one, and very capacious; it was covered formerly with two large flags twelve or fourteen feet long each; they were nearly shaped like the lid of a coffin, and were placed head to head; one of them remains, but

* One of the family of O'Loughlin now resides in Burrin, and is lineally descended from the ancient princes of that barony, and is stiled prince of Burrin; but he has too much sense to assume any airs in consequence of his high birth.

but the other has been thrown down by a Protestant clergyman, *who dreamed there was money buried under it.**

The celebrated tomb of Conaan, on Mount Callan, still remains perfect; it was erected A. D. 259. Many laughable anecdotes are told of the efficacy of Darby and Grane's bed, as they are called by the country people. If a woman proves barren, a visit with her husband to Darby and Grane's bed certainly cures her. On enquiring, from some country girls near Ballygannor, where this celebrated cromlech was, I was heartily laughed at for asking one of them, about sixteen years of age, to shew me the way to it; after a long consultation with one somewhat older than herself, sometimes with very serious countenances and often with smiling ones, and the elder one using a good deal of persuasion, she agreed to go with me, if *she was certain I was a stranger*, and she knew my name: as the conversation between themselves was in Irish, which I did not understand, and the evening was growing late, I became impatient, and very ungallantly rode away.†

When I had rode a mile farther, I made the same

* It argues a most deplorable want of taste in the proprietors of land, where these antiquities are erected, to suffer them to be destroyed or mutilated.

† For a curious coincidence of custom see General Vallancey's Prospectus, page 24.; and for which purpose only it is worth repeating.

same enquiry from a herd's wife, and at the same time told her how I had been laughed at by the girls; she said no wonder for them, for it was the custom that, if she went with a stranger to Darby and Grane's bed, she was certainly to grant him every thing he asked.

Near this last mentioned cromlech, and to the N. E., are two smaller ones, and the remains of a stone rath, in which part of a covered passage is still visible.

These monuments of high antiquity are very erroneously called in Irish *Leabha Diarmuid is Grane*, or Darby and Grane's bed or burial place; for, that they were used for the performance of some religious ceremony is evident from their having an inclination to the east or south-east; they were called altars from the Chaldee word *lebah* a flame. Certainly many were used as a place of sepulture, because bones have been frequently dug up from under them, but those, which have been used for this purpose, are entirely different in their construction, and betray, by their superior workmanship, their erection at a period long after those, which, by their simplicity of stile and materials, claim a title to a very high antiquity.* I have

* As it would have been very difficult to have found a sufficient quantity of earth in rocky ground to have formed a tumulus, perhaps this method of burying a *maladair* might have been substituted.

have seen one, that had the sides and covering stone elegantly cut, and neatly joined, in which, I was informed, bones had been formerly found.

Sect. 24. *List of Parishes.*

Barony of Burrin.

Abbey,
Drumkreehy,
Ougbtmoma,
Kilkorney,
Rathborney,
Killoneghan,
Glenvaan,
Glunning,
Kilmouny,
Killaney,
Nohavall,
Karne,
Crunane,
Glancolumkille.

Barony of Corcomroe.

Killelugh,
Tomalin,
Kilmacreehy,
Killaspuglonane,
Kilshanny,
Kilfenora,—cathedral.
Cloony,
Kilmanaheen.

Barony of Inchiquin.

Killinamonagh,
Raghe,
Dysart,
Kiltultogh,
Kilnaboy,
Corrofin,
Cood,
Kilwedane,
Kilmacduagh,—there is another of this name in the county of Galway.
Kilkeedy,
Kiltacka,
Moone.

Barony

Barony of Islands.

Ennis,
Cloundegad,
Killone,
Clare Abbey,
Drumkleeve.*

Barony of Bunratty.

Inchicronan,
Kilraftis,
Cloney,
Quin,
Doroney,
Templemaley,—¾ acre glebe—no glebe-house.
Tominlagh,
Killenasulogh,—15 acres of glebe.
Kilmallery,
Kilconry,
Clonlaghen,
Drumline,
Fynagh,
Bunratty,
Kilfintinan,
Coonock,
Killeby,—in the liberties of the city of Limerick.
Meelick,
Saint Muntions,
Kilquaine.

Barony of Tullagh.

Feacle,
Frenagheragh,
Tullagh,
Clonley,
Cruigh,
Kilmurry,

 Kilfenaghta,

* The rector does duty in Ennis; three acres of glebe. In this church, though it has every appearance of antiquity, well cut stones, that evidently belonged to some former and better kind of building, are worked up with the other rough stones.

Kilfenaghta,
Ballyshine,
Moinoe,
Tomgrany,
Killud,
Toogonela,
Aglish,
Killaloe,
Killikenneda,
Killuran,
Killeely,
Donass,
Kiltanlea,
Inniskalto—has been long in controversy with county Galway.

Barony of Ibrickan.

Killard,
Kilmurry,
Kilfarboy,
Innisclea,
Miltown.

Barony of Moyferta.

Kilballyhone,
Ross,
Moyferta,
Killenedane,
Kilfieragh,
Kilrush,
Kilmacduane,
Killeroney,
Kilnagleagh,
Mollough.

Four acres of glebe and house, which has been lately built with every attention to stability and convenience under the inspection of the Rev. Mr. Whitty.

Barony of Clounderalaw.

Killimer,
Kilmurry M'Mahon,
Kilmighill,
Kilfadin,
Kildysert,
Kilchrist.

SECT.

Sect. 25. *Abbeys.*

Beagh,

In the barony of Burrin; there was a monastery of the third order of Franciscan friars. The abbey of Beagh and the town-land of Abbeybeaghan are mentioned in the records.

N. B. There are no traces of this abbey at present; probably it may have been mistaken for one of that name in the barony of Clare, county of Galway.

Ceanindis or *Keannindse,*

Is the name of a hill in Dalcassia, now the county of Clare; St. Comgall, who was abbot of Gleanussen in the King's County, founded a church here; he died before the year 569.

Clare or *Kilmony*, or *abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul,*

On the river Fergus, anciently called also Forgy, in the barony of Islands, about a mile from Ennis, and not, as mentioned in the Monasticon Hibernicum, *where the Fergus falls into the Shannon,* for it is above seven miles from the junction of the two

rivers. This abbey was founded under the invocation of St. Peter and St. Paul for canons regular, following the rule of St. Augustine, by Donald O'Brien, the great king of Limerick; he appointed Donatus abbot, and richly endowed the abbey.

The charter was dated at Limerick in 1195, and witnessed by M. archbishop of Cashel, D. bishop of Killaloe, A, bishop of Fenabore, (Kilfenora,) and B. bishop of Limerick. Thady, bishop of Killaloe, exemplified king Donald's ancient charter in this monastery on the 18th of July 1461.

In 1543 King Henry VIII. granted the abbey to the Baron of Ibrachan, together with a moiety of the rectories of Kilchrist, Kilmoyle, Kilmacduan, Killurocragh, Ballinregdan, Ballylogheran, and Ballylegford.

This abbey was granted in fee to Donough Earl of Thomond, January 19, 1620, and a new grant was afterwards made in September the 1st, 1661, to Henry Earl of Thomond.

Corcomroe, or *abbey of St. Mary*,

Anciently called Corcamruadh, a small village in the barony of Burrin. It was thrice plundered by Roderic O'Connor and Dermot O'Brien in the year 1088.

A. D. 1194. Donald king of Limerick founded a sumptuous

a sumptuous monastery here for Cistertian monks, and dedicated it to the Virgin Mary; others say, that Donagh Carbrac his son was the founder, in the year 1200.

This abbey was also called the abbey of the fruitful rock, and was a daughter of that of Suire; it was afterwards made subject to the celebrated abbey of Furnes in Lancashire. The cell of Kilsonna, alias Kilshanny or Kilsane,* was some time afterwards annexed to this house; the founder died the same year.

1267. Donogh O'Brien, king of Thomond, was killed in the battle, that was fought at Siudaine in the barony of Burrin; he was solemnly interred in this abbey, where a grand monument was erected to his memory, the remains of which are to be seen to this day.†

1317. A dreadful battle was fought near this town, in which many of the principal of the O'Briens fell; amongst the slain were Teige, and Murtogh Garbh, sons of Brien Ruadh, king of Thomond.

1418. The abbot John was made bishop of Kilmacduagh.

This

* In the barony of Corcomroe, and now a parish wholly impropriate.

† A few years ago some giddy young gentlemen took it into their heads to amuse themselves with mutilating some part of this ancient monument; they were pursued by the country people, and, if overtaken, in all probability would have been served as they richly deserved.

This abbey, with eleven quarters of land, in Corcomroe and Glanemanagh, was granted to Richard Harding.

Ennis,

On the river Fergus, in the barony of Islands, is a market and borough town; it was anciently called Inniscluanruadha, and one of the suburbs, where a fair is held, is now called Clonroad.*

1240. About this time Donogh Carbrac O'Brien built a very noble and beautiful monastery here for conventual Franciscan friars.

1305. The annals of Innisfallen inform us, that this monastery was built or repaired this year by Terlagh the son of Teige Caoluiske O'Brien, who presented the friars with holy crosses, embroidered vestments, and other needle-work, cowls, and every necessary furniture, beautiful book-cases, and blue painted windows.

1306. Died Cumheadha Mor Macnamara; he was interred with his king in this monastery. This year Dermot the son of Doncha, son of Brien-roe, at the head of a powerful army of Irish and English, entered the town, and burned and destroyed every house in it.

1311.

* Mac Curtin, in his Antiquities of Ireland, mentions, that at one time there were at Clonroad upwards of 600 scholars, together with 350 monks, maintained by O'Brien, prince of this county, after the coming of the English.

1311. About this time Donogh, king of Thomond, bestowed the entire revenue of his principality towards the support of the poor friars of this monastery, and for enlarging and beautifying their house.

1313. Dermot O'Brien, prince of Thomond, was buried in this monastery, in the habit of a Franciscan friar.

1343. Moriertach O'Brien, the son of Theodoric prince of Thomond, died on June the 5th, and was buried here; and the same year Mathew Mac Comara, called the blind, who built the refectory and sacristy of the monastery, was buried here in the habit of the order.

1350. Pope Clement VI. granted several indulgences to this monastery, and Theodoric the son of Donogh O'Brien was interred therein.

1364. Dermot O'Brien, late prince of Thomond, died on the vigil of the conversion of St. Paul at Ardrahan in the county of Galway, but he had his sepulture in this monastery.

1370. Mathew O'Brien, prince of Thomond, dying on the feast of St. Philip and St. James, was also interred here.

1375. This year king Edward III. moved with compassion for the poverty of this house, and the scarcity of provisions in this part of the country, granted a licence, dated at Limerick, August the 22d,

22d, to the guardian and friars to enter into the English pale and purchase provisions of every kind; and he also granted a licence to Marian Currydany, a brother of the house, to go to the city of Argentine in Almania (or Germany) to study in the schools. This friary was reformed by the Franciscans of the strict observance. In a rental of the crown, in the year 1577, in the office of the Auditor general, the crown was then in possession of the site of this monastery, a mill on the river Fergus, and an eel and salmon-weir, with some houses and gardens in the village. On the 1st of June, 1621, it was granted to William Dongan, Esq.

Many of the ancient ornaments of this building, particularly a very fine window, uncommonly light and of exquisite workmanship, still remain; this, with other similar instances, must argue the refined taste of our ancestors. It is now the parish church, which occupies only a part of the ancient building; what a pity the end next this beautiful window had not been chosen for this purpose? but perhaps modern taste would have altered the window, as it has removed many of the old monuments. In a few years there will not be a vestige of the building; every person, that chooses, may pull down any part of it, and, instead of pointing the joints of the beautiful window, it will probably share the fate of the other parts.

Enniskerry

Enniskerry or Inniscaorach.

There are two islands of this name about three miles from the main land of the barony of Ibrickan. St. Senan of Iniscattery built an abbey on Inniscaorach in the territory of Hybreccain (Ibrickan) in Thomond.*

Finish,

An island in the river Shannon, where it receives the river Fergus. St. Bridget, the daughter of Conchraid of the family of Mactalius, presided over an abbey of nuns in the island of Inisfidhe or Cluanefidhe in the 5th century, in the time of St. Senan. It is an island in the Fergus, in the barony of Bunratty, and parish of Kilconry.

Gleanchaoin.

This valley is in Hy Luigdheach, in Munster, at the bounds of the see of Killaloe. St. Patrick built an abbey here; this place is now unknown.

* It is now called Mutton island, is the property of Mr. Bolton, and contains about 130 acres of good land; it feeds oxen, sheep, and rabbits, and sets for 100*l.* per annum. A large quantity of kelp is made here.

Glancholuimchille.

St. Columb founded this abbey; it is now a parish church (in ruins) in the diocese of Kilfenora, barony of Burrin, and parish of Karne.

Inchycronane,

Is an island in the river Shannon;* Donald O'Brien, king of Limerick, founded an abbey in the island of Inchycronane for Regular canons about the year 1190. This abbey and a moiety of the tithes of the parish of Inchycronane were granted to Donogh, earl of Thomond, January 19, 1620, and again in fee to Henry, earl of Thomond, Sept. 1, 1661.

Inchmore or Inismore, (the great island.)

An island in Loughree in the river Shannon.† St. Senan, the great saint of Iniscattery, built an abbey

* So says Archdall in the Monasticon Hibernicum; but there is no such island as Inchycronane in the Shannon; the abbey of Inchycronane is about six miles north of Ennis, in the barony of Bunratty, and is in a small island surrounded by a little rivulet.

† Innismore is in the river Fergus, and is called Deer-island; it is in the barony of Clounderalaw and parish of Kilchrist, and not in Loughree, as stated above from the Monasticon.

abbey at Inismore, and placed St. Liberius one of his disciples over it; his memory is still celebrated in this island.

Inisanlavi.

Turlogh, son of Teige Caoluisge, son of Connor na Suidaine O'Brien king of Thomond, built a magnificent abbey here, in which he was buried in the year 1305. The site is not known at present.

Iniscunla,

In Hy Ledna, an ancient territory in this county; St. Senan built a church here, and placed over it the saints Finan and Finnen. This church is now unknown.

Iniskeltair,

An island in Lough Derg in the river Shannon, and on the borders of the counties of Clare and Galway. St. Camin founded an abbey here, which was afterwards a church, and still retains his name; he died in the year 653, and was buried in his own church; his feast is observed on the 25th of March. St. Stellan the abbot died May the 24th, about three years before St. Camin.

St. Coelan, a monk of this abbey, flourished about the end of the 7th or beginning of the 8th century. He wrote a life of St. Brigid in latin verse, in which he expressly tells us, that this abbey was a convent of Benedictines:

——— Keltra est conventus rite virorum
Prudentum, sacro Benedicti dogmate florens.

834. This island was ravaged by the Danes, and the same year it was destroyed with fire by Tomar a Danish commander from Limerick.

1027. The great Brien Boroimhe, monarch of Ireland, erected the church of Iniskeltair about this time.

1040. Corcran was abbot of Iniskeltair; he was the most celebrated ecclesiastic of the west of Europe, both for religion and learning, and died this year at Lismore.

1043. Died St. Amnichad; he was a disciple of the abbot Corcran; his feast is held on the 30th of January.

1315. Brien O'Brien, brother to Donogh king of Thomond, was constrained to take shelter in this island.

There yet remains here a fine round tower, with seven small churches, which bespeak in miniature an elegance of taste. This island is remarkable for the great resort of pilgrims on certain festivals.

Innislua,

Inishua,

Was anciently called Inisluaidhe,* an island in the river Shannon, between Limerick and the island of Iniscattery. St. Senan of Corcabaiscin founded a monastery here before the coming of St. Patrick into Munster, and St. Moronoc, called the penitentiary of Inisluaidhe, had a cell here at the time of St. Senan's death.

Inisnegananagh,

Or the island of Canons, now called Elanagranoch, in the river Shannon, and barony of Clounderalaw, near the principality of Thomond. Donald O'Brien king of Limerick in the twelfth century founded or rebuilt a priory here for Canons regular, following the rule of St. Augustin. In a rental of the crown estate, in the year 1577, the crown was then seized, in right of this abbey, of the farm of the island, viz. four acres of arable, fourteen of mountain and pasture, and the site of the said abbey containing half an acre, a church, &c., three other islands called Inishorlth, (now Horse-island,) Iniskeirke, (now Inissark,) and Inistubred, (now Inistubber,)

* Probably Low-island, near the junction of the Shannon and Fergus.

Inistubber,) near the said island of Canons; the land called Iniskedragh not far from the river of Galway, containing thirteen acres of mountain; also two parts of the tithes of the rectory of Kildysert Murhull, and the vicarage of Kilchrist in Thomond.

The moiety of the said abbey of canons, and that of Clare, and the moiety of the churches of Kilchrist, Killonyle, alias Killenoyle, Kilmadovane, alias Killuichdowen, Killoveragh, Ballymacegan, alias Ballymacregan, Ballylougbbran, and Ballyloughfadela, and the chapel of Killowe, with all their tithes and profits, and the tithes of the demesne and lands of the same abbey, were granted in fee to Donogh, Earl of Thomond, June 20, 1605, and confirmed to him on March 8, 1609; they were again granted in fee to Henry Earl of Thomond, on September 1, 1661.

Inis-Scattery.

It was anciently called Inisscathy, Iniscathuigh, and Cathiana, a rich and beautiful island in the mouth of the river Shannon. St. Senan of Corcabaiscin founded an abbey here before the arrival of St. Patrick in Munster, as some report, but others say, that St. Patrick himself was the founder, and that he placed St. Senan here. He had eleven churches for his monks, and no women were permitted

mitted to land on the island before the coming of the Danes into this country. The prelates of this noble and ancient church are sometimes called by ecclesiastical historians bishops, and at other times abbots. In process of time it became a priory of regular canons.

A. D. 538. St. Kieran, who was called the son of the carpenter, having left the island of Arran, came hither, and was made *providore for the strangers* by St. Senan.

544. St. Senan died on the first of March, and was buried in the abbey. His festival is observed on the 8th day of that month, and a superb monument was erected to his memory. This saint's bell is still religiously preserved in the west part of the county, and is called the golden bell, and many of the common people believe at this day, that to swear by it falsely would be immediately followed by convulsions and death. This custom is not confined to this place or time, for we find in the Survey of Kildare, that the bell of St. Evan in the 7th century had the same veneration attached to it. St. Odian was the immediate successor to St. Senan.

792. Died Olchobhar the son of Flann; he was airchennach or ethnarch (archdeacon) of this abbey; his feast is held on the 27th of October.

816. The

816. The Danes plundered the island this year, put the monks to the sword, and defaced the monument of the saint.

835. About this time the same barbarians again sailed up the Shannon, and destroyed the monastery.

861. Died the abbot Aidan.

908. Cormac Mac Cuillenan, the learned and pious archbishop of Cashel, and king of Munster, was slain in the battle of Moyalbe, not far from Leighlin. Flaithbeartach the son of Ionmuineio, was then abbot of this monastery, and was the great fomenter of this war, in which the good bishop lost his life. In his will Cormac bequeathed to this abbey three ounces of gold, and to the abbot his choicest sacred vestments. The abbot for his concern in Cormac's melancholy fate was closely imprisoned for two years, and then ordered to a severe penance in this monastery; afterwards he so far recovered his power and influence, that on the death of Dubhlachtna, who had succeeded king Cormac, he was elected to fill the throne of Munster.

914. Some Danes landed at Waterford, but they were defeated by Flaithbeartach, who in the annals is called prince of Idrona.

944. Flaithbeartach died this year.

950. The Danes were become so powerful about this

this time, that they made this island a place of arms.

958. Died Noyman of Inisscatthy.

972. A Danish chieftain, Mark, the son of Harold, sailed round Ireland, and committed great devastations on this island, taking much treasure and many captives.

975. Brien king of Munster and Domnhall king of Ionmhuinein recovered this island from the Danes by defeating Iomhar the Norman and his two sons, Amhlaibh and Duibheheann; 500 of the Danes, with Mark and his two sons, who fled thither for safety some time before, were slain in this battle.

994. Died Colla the abbot and doctor of Inisscathy.

1050. Died Hua-schula the ethnarch of this abbey.

1057. Diarmuid Mac Maoilnambo, with the Danes of Dublin, plundered this island, but they were overtaken and defeated by Donogh the son of Brien.

1801. Died the abbot O'Burgus.

1176. This abbey was again plundered by the Danes of Limerick.

1179. William Hoel, an English knight, wasted the whole island, not even sparing the churches.

1188. Died Aid O'Beachain, bishop of Inisscathy.

1195. Inisscathy was at this time a bishop's see, afterwards united to Limerick, and soon after to

that of Killaloe, when Charles O'Heney was bishop in 1195.

Richard de London was guardian of this abbey, but the date is not recorded.

1290. Thomas le Chapelin was guardian after Richard; he was guardian also in the year 1295.

April 24th, and 20th of Queen Elizabeth, this abbey with the church-yard, twenty-four acres of land, a house, a castle built of stone and three cottages in the island, and the several customs following; from every boat of oysters, coming to the city of Limerick, once a year, 1000 oysters, and from every herring-boat 500 herrings once a year; also ten cottages, one church in ruins, twenty acres of wood and stony ground in the said island called Beachwood, with all the tithes, &c. were granted to the mayor and citizens of Limerick, and their successors for ever in free soccage, not in capite, at the annual rent of 3*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*

The monument of St. Senan is still to be seen here, with the remains of eleven small churches and several cells; in the stone, that closes the top of the altar window of the great church, is the head of the saint, with his mitre boldly executed, and but little defaced; an ancient round tower, 120 feet in height and in good repair, graces the scene. This island is remarkable for the resort of pilgrims on certain festivals.

Inistymon,

Inistymon,

In the barony of Corcomroe; St. Luchtighern was abbot of Inistymensis or Inistomensis.

*Kilcarragh.**

There was an hospital or monastery here, of which we have no further account, than that it was endowed with a quarter of land adjoining thereto, which at the dissolution was granted to John King.

Kilfarboy,

In the barony of Ibrickan, is now a parish church (in ruins). The monastery of Kilfobrick was founded A. D. 741. We find that Cormac, bishop and scribe of Kilfobrick, died A. D. 837.

Kilfenora,

Anciently called Fenabore and Celumabrach, in the barony of Corcomroe. The Annals of Munster tell us, that Murrough O'Brien burned the abbey of Kilfenora, and slew many people therein A. D.

* It is very near Kilfenora, on the estate of George Lyaght, Esq.

1055. It was in the year 1660 given in commendam to Samuel Pullen then archbishop of Tuam.

Killaloe,

Was anciently called Kildalua, Ceandaluan, the church of St. Fachnan, and Loania, or the habitation on the wave; the seat of a bishop, and situated on the western banks of the Shannon, near the noted cataract. St. Molualobhair, the grandson of Eocha Baildearg king of north Munster, founded an abbey here about the beginning of the 6th century.* He was succeeded by his disciple St. Flannan, who about the year 639 was consecrated bishop of the place; from this time we hear no more of it as an abbey. Killaloe was anciently the resort of many pilgrims.

Ecclesiastical divisions of the diocese of Killaloe, according to the Rev. Dr. Beaufort.

The diocese of Killaloe was founded early in the 5th century; in the 12th it was incorporated with the ancient bishopric of Roscrea founded in 620;

* Mc. Curtin's Vindication of the History of Ireland states, that Brien Boromhe built the churches of Killaloe and Iniscathra, and reedified the steeple of Tomgraney.

620; in the year 1752 the see of Kilfenora, which had been established about the 12th century, was united to it, and, though very small in extent and value, had continued separate until after the restoration, when it was first annexed to the archbishopric of Tuam; that union continued eighty-one years until 1741, when, Ardagh being annexed to Tuam, this bishopric was given in commendam to the bishop of Clonfert.

The diocese of Killaloe stretches eighty miles in length, through the counties of Clare and Tipperary, into the King's county, and includes also a small part of the Queen's county, Galway and Limerick; it varies in breadth from seven to twenty-five miles.

Kilfenora is confined to the baronies of Burrin and Corcomroe, and extends only eighteen miles by nine. In the Chapter of each diocese there are stalls for a dean, precentor, chancellor, treasurer and archdeacon, and in that of Killaloe for five prebendaries.

Of the patronage of these dioceses it is difficult to form an abstract, the rectories being mostly separate from the vicarages, and many of them in lay patronage; thus multiplied in number, ten of them are in the gift of the crown, 131 in the bishop, and 36 in lay patrons; those 177 rectories

and

and vicarages are united and condensed, if the expression may be allowed, into fifty benefices.

The church of Killaloe is not large for a cathedral, but venerable for its antiquity, and in good preservation, though built above 660 years; it serves like many others for the parish church. Very near the little town of Killaloe, in the midst of a fine demesne, beautifully situated on the western bank of the Shannon, stands the episcopal residence, a handsome new house, erected by the late archbishop of Dublin (Fowler) when bishop of Killaloe. This see is fifty miles from the S. W. extremity of the diocese.

In the diocese of Killaloe are contained, (in Clare only,)

426700 acres,
57 parishes,
20 benefices,
15 churches,
1 glebe-house,
15 glebes only,
6 benefices without glebes,
16 rectories impropriate,
5 wholly impropriate.

Kilfenora contains

37000 acres,
19 parishes,
8 benefices,
3 churches,
1 glebe-house,
5 glebes only,
2 benefices without glebes,
0 rectory impropriate,
2 wholly impropriate;

And to each church on an average 17513 acres!!

Near the church of Killaloe is the building called the oratory of St. Moluah, reckoned one of the oldest buildings in Ireland; it was built in the 7th century; it is arched with stone, and at present serves Dr. Martin for a cart-house, and a pen for sheep, that graze in the church-yard.

Kilnagallagh,

On the shore of the river Shannon, and two miles and a half N. W. of Inisscattery, in the barony of Moyferta, and parish of Kilfieragh. St. Senan gave the veil to the daughters of Natens in Kilcochaille, now called Kilnacaillech or the church of the nuns, not far from Inisscattery.

Killoen,

Killoen, or *Killone*, or *Nunnery of St. John the Baptist*,

In the barony of Islands. About the year 1190 Donald O'Brien, king of Limerick, founded an abbey here for nuns, following the rules of St. Augustin, and dedicated it to St. John the Baptist. Slaney, the daughter of Donogh Carbrach, king of Thomond, was abbess of this nunnery, and died A. D. 1260; she was pre-eminent in devotion, alms-deeds, and hospitality to all the women then in Munster.

Kilshanny,

In the barony of Corcomroe; the cell of Kilshanny, alias Kilsonna or Kilsane, was annexed to the abbey of Corcomroe. This monastery, with all its appurtenances, mills, and fisheries, was granted to Robert Hickman.

Quin,

Called also Quint or Quinchy, is in the barony of Bunratty, about five miles east of Ennis. An abbey was founded here early, which was consumed by fire, A. D. 1278.

The monastery of Quin for Franciscan friars was founded in 1402 by Sioda-Cam Macnamara, but father

father Wadding places it in the year 1350, yet at the same time he declares, that he thinks it more ancient.

Pope Eugenius the fourth granted a licence to Macnamara to place the friars of the strict observance in the monastery, which, as Wadding observes, was the first house of the Franciscan order in Ireland, that admitted of that reformation.

The same year Mac Cam Dall Macnamara, lord of Glancoilean, erected this monastery, being a beautiful strong building of black marble; his tomb is still remaining. This monastery, with all the manors, advowsons, &c. of Daveunwall, Ichanee, Downagour, and divers others, with the site of all the hereditaments thereof, was granted to Sir Turlogh O'Brien of Innishdyman (Innistymon) in fee, December 14, 1583.

The Roman Catholics repaired this monastery in 1604. Bishop Pococke thus describes its present state: "Quin is one of the finest and most "entire monasteries, that I have seen in Ireland; "it is situated on a fine stream with an ascent "of several steps to the church; at the entrance "one is surprized with the view of the high altar "entire, and of an altar on each side of the arch "of the chancel. To the south is a chapel with "three or four altars in it, and a very gothic

"figure in relief of some saint; on the north side "of the chancel is a fine monument of the family "of the Macnamaras of Rance, erected by the "founder; on a stone by the high altar the name "of Kennedye appears in large letters; in the middle, "between the body and the chancel, is a fine tower "built on the gable ends. The cloister is in the "usual form with couplets of pillars, but is par- "ticular in having buttresses round it by way of "ornament; there are apartments on three sides "of it, the refectory, the dormitory, and another "grand room to the north of the chancel, with a "vaulted room under them all; to the north of the "large room is a closet, which leads through a pri- "vate way to a very strong round tower, the walls "of which are near ten feet thick. In the front of "the monastery is a building, which seems to have "been an apartment for strangers, and to the "south-west are two other buildings." It remains nearly in the same state as when the bishop wrote, but greatly disfigured by the superstitious custom of burying within the walls of churches. The south end, built by one of the family of Macnamara, is much superior in neatness of workmanship to the adjoining parts. There are the remains of a curious representation of a crucifixion in stucco on the wall near the high altar, that has escaped, I believe, the

the observation of all travellers. A pigeon-house, eel-weir, and good water, were amongst the comforts the good friars enjoyed at Quin.

Rosslesenchoir,

Near the western ocean. St. Cocca, nurse to St. Kieran, was abbess of a nunnery here, which is now wholly unknown.

Shraduffe or *Templedisert.*

On the 12th of March, 1611, the site of this abbey, and the possessions thereunto belonging were granted in fee to Sir Edward Fisher, knight; this is the only information we have, that there was a religious house here.

Six-mile-bridge,

Called in Irish Abhuinn O'Gearna, from the river Gearna or Ougarnee, which runs from thence to the Shannon.

There was a chapel or vicarial house near to this town, which did belong to the Dominicans of Limerick, but of this there are now no remains.

Tomgraney,

Anciently called Tuaimgraine, about a mile west of Lough Derg; an abbey was founded here early.

A. D. 735. Died the abbot St. Manchin.

747. Died the abbot Connell.

791. Died the abbot Cathnia O'Guary.

886. The abbey was plundered.

949. It received the same treatment.

964. Cormac O'Killeen, a man famous for his learning and good works, died this year; he was abbot of Tuaimgraine and of Roscommon; he was also both abbot and bishop of Clonmacnois, and built the church and steeple of this abbey.

1002. Died the abbot Dungal; he was the son of Beaon.

1027. Brien Boroimhe, the famous monarch of Ireland, repaired the steeple about this time.

1078. Died the abbot Cormac Hua Beain.

1084. O'Ruark of Breffiny reduced this abbey to ashes, but the fate he merited soon overtook him, for he fell by the troops of Thomond.

1164. This abbey was put into the same miserable state this year.

1170. It was plundered again about this time,

Tomgraney

Tomgraney is now a parish church in very bad repair, and in the gift of Mr. Brady of Raheens.

It has been generally remarked, that the land around old abbeys is generally very good; the cause is usually mistaken for the effect, for though the ground in some instances is naturally good, yet it is to a superior and long continued cultivation and manuring it is to be attributed; at the same time we may suppose the monks, like their brethren of every persuasion, had no aversion to the good things of this world.

Resident clergy only.

Rev. Frederick Blood, Rev. Thomas Lane, } Rath, Kilkeedy, Corrofin, &c.

Rev. Mr. Whitty, rector, Rev. J. Graham, curate, } Union of Kilrush, Killard, Kilfieragh, Moyferta, and Kilballyhone.

Rev. Mr. Whitty, Tullagh.

Rev. Mr. Weldon, Ennis.

Rev. Mr. Reid, Tomgraney.

Rev. Mr. Miller, rector, Rev. Mr. Holland, curate, thirty years. } Union of Six-mile bridge, Kilconry, Clonloghan, Bunratty, Feenagh, Kilfenaghtin, containing 12264 acres, and three acres of glebe.

Rev.

Rev. John Palmer, Kilnasullogh, Kilmurry, Clonloghan, 15 acres of glebe.

Rev. William Hadlock.

Rev Mr. Butler.

Rev. James Martin.

Rev. Michael Fitzgerald, rector of Quin, Dowry, and Cloney.

Rev. Michael Davoren, rector, } Miltown.
Rev. Andrew Davoren, curate, }

Rev. James Kenny.

Rev. Oliver Grace, curate, Rathborney, &c. &c.; lives eleven miles from the church.

I regret the clergy did not furnish me with a more correct list.

Frequently some part of a parish is contained in an adjoining one; for instance, part of Killonehan in Glanning, of Kilmouny in Killonehan, of Rathborney in Kilmouney, of Kilmouney in Killelagh, and in another barony, &c. &c.

Some years since the late Rev. Dr. Columbine left by will 100*l.* in the hands of Edward Burton, Esq. of Clifden, the interest to be applied in marriage portions to as many young *protestant* couples as complied with certain religious duties. I fear it has been little better than a premium on hypocrisy.

A handsome new church has been lately built at Six-mile-bridge, another at Miltown, and one at

at Quin, a disgrace to the parish; what an architect, to build such a vile imitation of Quin abbey, and even where the eye could take in both at one time!

The churches in general seem greatly neglected; the seats are scarcely ever dusted, except by the coats of the congregation; the windows are seldom opened to admit fresh air; indeed this is the less necessary, as there is generally plenty of broken panes, broken doors, and broken roofs. If a church has been white-washed once in five or six years, the spattering remains on the windows, until the rain washes it off. The church of Tullagh (1807) is particularly dirty and ruinous, the windows and ceiling full of cobwebs, the seats full of dust, and three marble monuments (to the disgrace of the families, to whom they belong) completely in mourning. Although ornament in churches is unnecessary, surely the virtue of cleanliness is particularly so in a place of divine worship, and if the churchwardens will not do their duty, it would not degrade the clergyman to do it; I believe in this case he has the power to act thus.

Pillar-stones, &c.

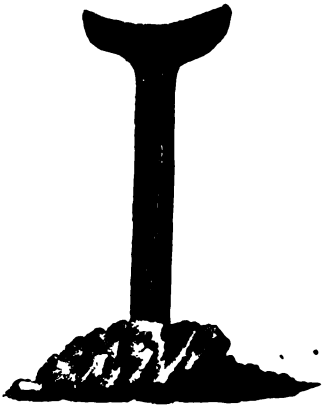
Pillar-stones occur in but few places; some may be seen on the road between Spansel-hill and Tullagh:

lagh: from the rudeness of the workmanship they are probably of very high antiquity. A gentleman informed me they were *rubbing-posts for cattle!*—See General Vallancey's Prospectus.

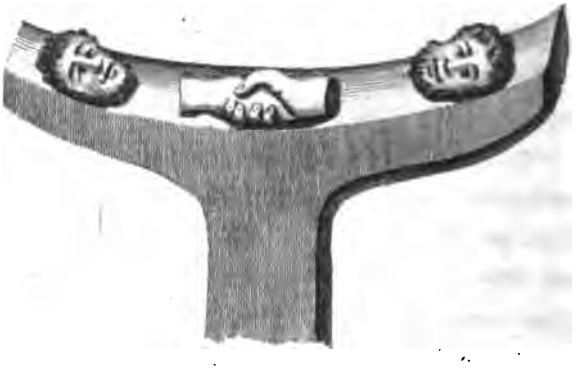
At Kilfenora several ancient crosses are to be seen; one in the church-yard seems to be of great antiquity, as there is no inscription on it; another on the estate of George Lysaght, Esq. is of very light and beautiful workmanship, and probably of a period long after that in the church-yard.

Near the church and round tower of Dysert O'Dea, a very curious one lies on the ground; it represents (it is said) St. Monalagh, who was bishop of this place, and whose figure is represented on it, with his crozier, &c. accompanied by several other figures; it is without date; but on the base, that supported it, we are informed, that it was repaired by one of that family in the year 1689. It is remarkable, that the head of the saint is cut on a square piece of flat stone, that can be put in and out at pleasure like the stopper of an oven. The crozier also of this saint is still preserved with great care; it is called the Boughal, (stick,) and is of curious workmanship; it is held in such veneration, that oaths are taken on it with great solemnity, and a shilling paid for the use of it to a poor woman, who gives it out to any person,

who



Curious Monument at Kilnaboy



who applies for it, and it travels safely from cabin to cabin.

In a field near the church of Kilnaboy, a remarkable cross is fixed in a rock; tradition says, that two men had a violent quarrel of many years standing, which, by the interference of mutual friends, they agreed to settle here; they met and shook hands, and in commemoration of the event a cross was erected on the spot. The appearance of it gives some degree of probability to the story, for there are two faces in relief looking towards each other on the top of the cross, and two hands in the middle like those in the act of shaking hands; my informant said this happened long before the building of the round tower or the church. (See plate on the opposite side.) It is remarkable how little curiosity there is in the county; not a single gentleman, even of those, who passed it by frequently for forty years, had ever noticed it, though not twenty yards from the road.

Sect. 26. *Whether the county has been actually surveyed?*

This county was surveyed in 1639 by order of the Earl of Strafford, and the map is esteemed tolerably correct. Some years since an actual survey was made by Mr. Pelham, by order of the

grand jury; from what I have seen, and from the report of the inhabitants of the county, I am induced to think it is generally correct; some trifling omissions or inaccuracies may be perceived, but in general it is such as to do credit to Mr. Pelham, especially if the gentlemen of that day were as little alive to any thing, that would benefit their county without exclusively serving themselves, as I found those of the present day.

The engraver has taken great liberties, and laid a very heavy hand on his graver, when delineating the hills; to a stranger the county must appear a dreary mountain, destitute of verdure or cultivation, and of inhabitants. The barony of Burratty for instance, whose gentle hills are either grazed or tilled to the summit, appears almost as gloomy as the eastern part of Tullagh, or Moyferta, or Burrin. Many of the names of places are very incorrect, (as I suppose mine are,) not only from an ignorance of the Irish language, and the quick manner the natives pronounce many words, but from the want of correction by the gentlemen of the county, few of whom but would rather laugh at than set one right.

Though there is an act of parliament directing, that a map and survey shall be kept constantly hung up in the grand jury room, this useful regulation is evaded; perhaps it would detect jobbing

too

too much, and is therefore suppressed. There is also another act for providing barony maps; if these were on a scale large enough, they would be of great use in laying out new roads, but then this would take too much money from the road-jobbing.

SECT. 27. *Weights and measures, liquid or dry; in what instances are weights assigned for measures, or vice versa?*

CORN is sold by the long barrel, and short barrel; the short one is, of wheat, twenty stone; bere and barley, sixteen stone; oats, fourteen stone; rape, sixteen stone, (sometimes the buyer wrangles the farmer out of more,) bran four stone. The long barrel is twice the weight of the short. Though the gentlemen of the county admit the inconvenience in moving such large sacks as contain the long barrel, yet not the smallest exertion is made to abolish them, and some are even so touchy on the customs of their country, however ridiculous, that they will not allow them to be erroneous, and say a *long barrel is better than a short one*, &c. &c.

In Kilrush wheat and oats are sold by the stone of 14 lbs. which would be the best method of selling every article, until we have some regulation to adjust all weights by decimals. Hides and tallow

are sold by the stone of 16 lbs. Potatoes are usually sold by the bushel, but a previous agreement is made how many stone the bushel shall contain (ridiculous!); for in some parts of the county it weighs 6 stone 6 lbs. in others 16, 18, and 20 stone, and the weights even differ in summer and winter; in summer they give only 16 lbs. to the stone, but in winter allow 18 lbs. to make amends for dirt. The barrel differs on either side of Ardsallas river; on the south side it is six bushels of ten stone each, whilst on the north side eight bushels of ten stone are given, and near Limerick potatoes are sold by the bushel of 8 st. 8lbs., and six bushels to the barrel.

Wool 16 lbs. to the stone; feathers 16 lbs. to the stone; these are procured mostly by plucking the geese three times every summer, those for fattening excepted. Four-pence is usually paid for the feathers of each goose at every time of plucking; good feathers are usually sold for about a guinea per stone of 16 lbs.

Barrel of malt 12 stone; this is perhaps the only thing, that should be sold by measure only; selling by weight is a premium on bad malt, the worst always weighing most. In some places they have a measure called a skibbet, it contains two bushels or seven stone of oats.

Great abuses are practised at markets, and at some stores,

stores, in the weigbing of corn; frequently the weights are of stones of various sizes, pieces of iron, or lead, or mutilated weights. In fact the seller does not well know what they weigh, as very few have scales at home, and even, if he had, little notice would be taken by the *infallible* clerk of the scales. Various allowances must be made for sacks, dirt, &c. &c. &c., and the *ipse dixit* of the person, who attends the scales, must be a law to the poor farmer; as sacks are of such various weights, the fairest way is to weigh all the full sacks, and, when they are emptied, throw them all into one scale, and deduct their weight from the gross one.

It is generally thought, that two of our barrels are equal to an English quarter, but it is not so, for two of our barrels of wheat weigh 560 lbs., whilst the English quarter weighs but 516 lbs.

The yard and the bandle differ in many places, according as the rule, by which they measure, varies; the yard ought to be thirty-six inches, and the bandle twenty-seven inches long. In the county of Galway the bandle is thirty inches, and in Limerick only twenty-one inches, in some parts of Kilkenny twenty-four inches. It is in the power of magistrates and church-wardens to take up fraudulent weights and measures, but of what use is a power they have not the honesty to exert?

When

When they are buying for themselves, they look sharp enough.

Very great abuses are practised in the measurement of lime; the statute lime-barrel should contain forty gallons of $217\frac{6}{10}$ cubic inches or five cubic feet: in many places probably half that measure is not given, particularly at Nutfield.

Sect. 28. *Morals, manners, and customs of the people.*

To shew that a deplorable laxity of morals prevails, I need only refer my readers to the section on roads; they will there see a specimen of those of the higher ranks; and for a sample of those in the middling and lower ranks I must send them to Ennis on a Sunday morning; there they will see shops open, goods hanging at the doors for sale, standings in the streets, timber for sale leaning against the sessions-house, in short every appearance of business as there was on the previous market day; and many neighbouring ladies defer their shopping until that day, after paying their devotions to heaven, totally regardless of the fourth commandment. Had I not frequently seen magistrates sharing in this monstrous abuse of the sabbath, I could not have thought there was one in the town; it surely

surely would be a meritorious act of the Lord Chancellor to supersede the abetters of such gross impiety.

The children, even infants, in this town are particularly wicked, and the ears (not of the clergy, magistrates, or church-wardens) are constantly grated by the most shocking and novel cursing and swearing.

A curious custom prevails in a part of this county; when a beast is slaughtered, the smith claims, and in some instances receives the head of the beast; formerly it was more general, but some have sense enough to refuse such a sacrifice to Vulcan; probably the custom originated in a remuneration for the use of his sledge and his sinewy arm in knocking down the beast; however it may have been introduced, it is or was practised lately in the Western isles, for Dr. Johnson in his Tour, page 183, informs us, that the smith has the head, the piper the udder, (how appropriate!) the weaver and others so many pieces, that a small share falls to the laird.

In many places gentlemen are called by the country people by their christian names, without any of those additions, which modern pride expects from inferiors; on the road to Skarriff, I enquired from a poor woman, who lived in a gentleman's house within view; she said, "Charley;" pray who is Charley?

Charley? "Arrah don't you know Charley? Why you must be a stranger in the country, or you'd know Charley O'Callaghan," meaning Mr. O'Callaghan of St. Catharine's.

I saw hounds hunting near Spansel-hill on the 19th of August, and all the corn standing!

In no part of Ireland is hospitality more practised than in this county. I should be most ungrateful indeed, if I did not feel and acknowledge it; I wish I could say so much for my mare; for, whilst I have had every attention paid to my comfort in the parlour, she poor creature has often after a long journey been obliged to go to bed without her supper of oats: I am totally at a loss to account for this, which is by no means peculiar to this county; it may be found in Galway and elsewhere. You will be the more welcome the more wine you drink, yet six-pence worth of oats will be denied to your horse. I would advise no person to travel without a servant, and a sharp fellow too. If your horse is turned to grass at night, in all probability he will be sent to the deer-park, the calf-park, or stone paddock, places proverbially bare; not one house in ten has either oats or straw in summer, and frequently but little hay.

A strange custom prevails in this county, and indeed in most parts of Ireland, (a remnant of feudal times;) if a poor man has business to transact

transact with a gentleman, instead of coming up to the door, and sending in a servant with his message, he loiters about the door, and the stables, or frequently waits to catch his honor on the road from his house; thus losing his time at perhaps a very busy season. Frequently poor people, and sometimes wealthy ones, that come to pay their rent, are treated in this manner. I have often thought, that gentlemen seemed to take a pride in seeing and shewing so many dependants about their doors; if not, why not dispatch them immediately?

The men are now scarcely ever barefooted, except they are working in bogs, or other wet places, and the women not so much as formerly; they usually walk to market barefooted, but, when they come near the town, always wash their feet, put on their shoes and stockings, and adjust their dress like their superiors.

Very great use is made of mules and asses, for carrying baskets, and small loads, such as poor people usually load them with: for such persons, as are not able to keep a horse, they are a great convenience. It is astonishing, what a load some of these little animals (asses) will carry, frequently above 24 stone, much more than their own weight; and often a large stone is added to the load, to balance one of the baskets: these kinds of loads

are called *up-loads*. Though these kinds of loads are useful to poor people, it is ridiculous to see them so much used by those, who could very well afford to buy a cart, which with a moderate sized horse would very easily draw 128 stone, or 16 cwt.: but the cart must be got from Dublin, from the Implement manufactory on the North-wall; for a cart made in the country, not being constructed on any principle, would not carry half that weight with the same ease to the horse.

It is very much the custom to make sacks for corn of a most unwieldy length, and frequently to load their small horses so heavily as to injure and sometimes break their backs; they have the further inconvenience of being difficult to move; none but the strongest men dare attempt it, and even these are often injured in their backs; but all-powerful custom reconciles them to it, and the example of their betters confirms it.

The Irish peasantry have often been accused, by their polite and travelled neighbours, and by absentees, of almost every vice incident to human nature. If this even was the case, could it be wondered at for a moment, if the extreme ignorance, in which they are reared, were considered? The poor people themselves are so sensible of this, that every man, that can possibly spare the money, gives his children such education, bad as it is,

is, as he can procure for such a trifle as is usually paid at country schools. Can it be surprising, after reading the list of *Irish classics*, which I have before detailed, that they should believe in fairies, hobgoblins, witches, Will o'the wisp, ghosts, and a multitude of legendary tales, which old women are fond of relating? It is rather astonishing they are so free from vice.

Many pagan rites still remain; and the poor ignorant native little thinks, when he is dancing round his bonfire, or dressing his May-bush, that he is using the same ceremonies the worshippers of Baal did.

In this county, as elsewhere, it is much the custom to put children to nurse with some healthy cottager; fine ladies don't like either the trouble, or to spoil their shapes; as this unnatural custom does not take place so much in England, it may help to account for the superior prolificacy of our Irish ladies. A great inconvenience attends this custom; the nurse and indeed her whole family think you are *obliged* to assist them, whilst they live; in fact there is no shaking them off: they in general endeavour to avoid taking any money as payment for nursing, but they contrive by collops, (grazing cattle,) wool, corn, potatoes, &c. &c. to get thrice more than a liberal allowance in money would amount to; and indeed many of

the better kind of people would rather pay three times the amount in this unsatisfactory way, than in cash. It must at the same time be admitted, that the poor man's family generally retain a great affection for the child during life.

Wakes, quite different from what are so called in England, still continue to be the disgrace of the country. As it would be thought a great mark of disrespect not to attend at the house where the corpse lies, every person makes it a point, especially women, to shew themselves; and when they first enter the house, they set up the most hideous but *dry-eyed* yell, called the *Irish cry;* this, however, lasts but a short time. The night is usually spent in singing, not mournful dirges, but merry songs, and in amusing themselves with different small plays, dancing, drinking, and often fighting, &c.

Hurling matches or goals I have mentioned before. *Chairs* are meetings at night in some whiskey-house, where they dance, drink, fight, and frequently settle the politics of the county, &c. These two last kinds of meetings are ruinous to the young people of both sexes: it is nothing uncommon for servants of both sexes to stay out all night; the general custom of leaving outside doors open at night gives great facility to this breach of trust. It is by no means unusual for the

the gentleman of the house to lock himself up carefully in his bedchamber, and leave the key in both street and back-door; frequently there is no lock to either. Surely they cannot blame young people for taking advantage of so very reprehensible a neglect; in many cases, that indolence, which pervades the whole county, is the cause of it.

It is the custom of the women of this county, in common with I believe every other in Ireland, to walk at some distance behind their husbands. Paddy, let him be ever so fond of his rib, would think it a mark of disrespect, if she walked by his side.

Sect. 29. *Concluding Observations.*

The county of Clare, which is the subject of this work, seems to be distinguished, by one peculiar circumstance, from those parts of Ireland, that have hitherto fallen under my observation. That circumstance is, that it contains such an intermixture of soils, from the deep corcass to the light gravelly substance, as to include a regular gradation of soils, fitted to produce all the necessaries, and even luxuries, for the various purposes of civilized life.

There

There appears to be in this margin, I may call it, of the Atlantic ocean, every species of ground rising in a regular chain of productive fertility from the craggs of Burrin to the fattening pastures of Tradree. A traveller, who takes pleasure in contemplating on the wonderful diversity of forms, in which nature delights to indulge, cannot but be struck with the astonishing contrast between the cliff, that frowns over the vale of Glanaragud, where the goat (the chamois of these Irish alps,) can hardly find a scanty blade of grass to browze on, and the banks of the Shannon, the richness of whose quality is such as can scarcely be eaten down by the most numerous herds of oxen, or exhausted by the successive tillage of many years.

Although to treat of the manners, customs, or general religion of this county, not being given to me in commission, does not therefore regularly form any part of this work, yet I trust I shall not be censured, if I impart my sentiments on them, as far as my transitory residence in this county enables me to do. Should I not be as comprehensive on these topics, as their importance demands, the candour of the reader will consider, that a mere bird of passage can only pick up a few superficial grains of knowledge; but to be particular or accurate can be the result alone of permanent residence, and of that variety of communications,

nications, which, I regret to have to say, were withheld from me by many of the clergy, who possessed the necessary means.

The manners of the inhabitants from the lowest to the highest class are marked by a civility (the few exceptions, that I unfortunately met with, do not alter my opinion) and readiness to oblige. There is not any considerable disparity of condition; the general run of those, who occupy the rank of gentry, appear to be at no great distance from each other in point of fortune, as a number of the great land proprietors are absentees, spending in Dublin and London the produce of their large rentals, which, if laid out in the county they belong to, would give comfortable bread to the unemployed tradesmen and happiness not felt before.

Hospitality, for which this county, as I am informed, was always remarkable, still hails the coming guest, but on a more rational and improved principle than formerly, as deep and excessive drinking is exploded from all genteel tables; on the other hand they have not learned from their neighbours to *put the cork in the bottle*, when they think their guests have had enough.

The materials for exercising this social virtue are to be found no where in greater abundance or perfection, or on cheaper terms. The western ocean,

ocean, that flows within fourteen miles of Ennis, the county town, supplies every sort of sea-fish, that is known or desired either as a necessary or a luxury in Great Britain; every kind of shell-fish is also to be had in great plenty and perfection, including the Pouldoody oysters, that for flavour are universally allowed to be superior to any in the world. Salmon, pike, trout, and eels are obtained in great perfection and profusion from the Shannon and several other rivers in this county, and from the numerous lakes, that present themselves in different directions.

Beef, mutton, pork, and poultry are also very cheap, and, except the last, very good. The vegetable market of Ennis is one of the best I have seen in a country town.

The wild fowl of this county, particularly in the barony of Inchiquin, are remarkable for being well fed, and for a high and at the same time a sweet flavour.

Formerly this county contained a number of deer-parks, and the venison was esteemed exquisitely fine,* as the heathy grass, the hazel copse, and all that wild herbage, that deer love to feed on (and without which they are not as good as mutton,)

* Mr. Brady of Raheens still maintains the credit of his venison, which has been always in high estimation, and he still keeps up his pack of buck-hounds.

mutton,) abounded in many parts; but there are few inclosures kept up for deer now, as the rise on lands has so greatly encreased their value, that what few years ago was allotted for a deer-park, as rough mountainous ground worth little or nothing, if set at this day, fetches a very great rent; consequently venison has become proportionably scarce, few wishing to pay at least half a crown a pound for it, the rate at which I am convinced every person, that feeds on five years old buck, eats it.

It is with great pleasure I am now to close these observations with a remark as to the cordiality, that subsists in this county between the Protestants and the Catholics; they intermarry according to their inclination and circumstances, without any impediment from a difference of persuasion, and live in habits of sincere friendship and good will, free from that bigotry and rancour, that tend to the ruin and disgrace of other parts of Ireland, and which under the pretence of religion violate its pure and benevolent precepts.

APPENDIX.

In the Statistical Survey of the county of Kildare, a new method of planting potatoes is mentioned as having been discovered by the very intelligent author. He plants whole potatoes in squares at three feet asunder, and uses only about forty cart loads of dung to a plantation acre. The earth is thrown up to the potatoe stalks as they advance in their growth, as long as any can be found of a good quality, until the hillocks are sometimes upwards of two feet high. By this method a great saving of seed is made, and they can be landed with the plough, or by the cottier's wife and children; and this is so much more cheaply done than in the usual lazy-bed way, that the expence of producing a barrel of potatoes of twenty stone, according to this improved method, amounts only to about 8*d.* whilst that of a barrel in the lazy-bed way amounts to 4*s.* 9*d.*; the quantity pro-

duced in the bank method is stated in the Survey, as follows, per acre,

		Barrels of 20 st.
" Rednose kidney,	the author.	152
" English reds,		350
" Red bottoms (a new species of apple.		350
" Lewis Mansergh, Esq. Athy, (apples)		120
" Mr. Ryder, Bray, (apples) - -		115

N. B. These were neglected to be landed.

" C. P. Doyne, Esq Queen's county, had from " thirty-seven potatoes, occupying a square " perch at four and a half feet apart, fifty " stone of potatoes, or per acre, - 400

" Lennon, one of my labourers cultivated half " a rood, of which he took much care in land- " ing; he has upwards of a stone from each " of his banks, English reds, that is per acre, 400

Improved cider, or farmer's wine.

" Take new cider from the press, mix it with honey till it bears an egg; boil it gently for a quarter of an hour, (but not in an iron pot,) take off the scum as it rises, let it cool, then barrel it, without filling the vessel quite full; bottle it off in March. In six weeks afterwards it will be ripe for use, and

as

as strong as Madeira. The longer it is kept afterwards, the better."

Particular care must be taken, that the cider be of the best kind, and that the honey be perfectly free from wax.

In several parts of this work I have endeavoured to impress on the minds of land proprietors the ruinous tendency of setting lands to *unimproving* middlemen, and of employing agents totally ignorant of country business to transact their affairs. The following extract from the Agricultural Magazine, p. 272, comes so strongly and practically in aid of my reiterated assertions, that I beg leave to insert it here.

The estate of Rathdangan, in the county of Wicklow, improved by occupying tenants.

By the Rev. Arthur Conolly, of Donard near Baltinglass.

TO THE EDITOR.

"SIR, *March* 1798.

"I send you the scheme proposed for the improvement of Mrs. Hamilton's estate of Rathdangan, and add a few lines to explain more particularly its design and success. In April 1806, I was requested by Mrs. Hamilton to take possession of an estate she had in the county of Wicklow, and to assist her in resetting it with my advice. It had

had been set for 31 years to two *head-tenants*, one of whom had bought the other out long before the expiration of the lease. I went there, and took regular possession, and in doing that beheld, both with regard to the land, houses, and inhabitants, such a scene of desolation, wretchedness, and misery, as I had before no conception of. Above thirty poor families lived under the head-tenant, who was an unfeeling, overbearing savage, in hovels not fit for swine, in the most squalid poverty. Struck with horror at this affecting scene, I ventured to propose to Mrs. Hamilton the annexed scheme, which, *contrary to the advice of her agent*, and other persons, whom she consulted, (who deemed it visionary and impracticable,) she adopted. At the end of the four years, mentioned in this scheme, she was so pleased with its success, that she continued the premiums, that were then to cease, above two years more. There are now on it thirty-two neat convenient farm-houses, built of lime and stone, and the land is in a very high state of cultivation and improvement, far superior to any thing in that country; the inhabitants are decent, regular, and content, and no taint whatever of that dangerous spirit, which too generally prevails in this kingdom, (and from which the county of Wicklow is far from being free,) has reached that

happy

happy spot. I should add that, besides the premiums mentioned, there is one of a guinea-and-a-half for the best plantation of that useful tree, the sallow; a guinea for the second best; and half-a-guinea for the third: in consequence, most of the houses are half concealed in shade. The estate lies in a very wild country, about thirty miles from Dublin; to which, for want of a more convenient market, they send that part of the produce of their land, butter and bacon, of which they make their rent. The rents are paid with a punctuality unknown in that country."

Arthur Conolly.

Report of the state of the Farm, 11th April, 1799.

"Though the estate above-mentioned has been cruelly ravaged and plundered by the insurgents, and much harrassed by the free quarters, that prevailed last summer, there is not now due an arrear equal to a seventh part of the year's rent. There is also strong presumptive proof, (such as no houses having been destroyed by the army, nor one of the inhabitants punished, though near (five miles east of) Baltinglass, where a very watchful eye is kept over the people,) the inhabitants resident and improving their farms, that this spot, though surrounded by as disturbed districts as any

any in the kingdom, continues well affected and peaceable." A. C.

A scheme proposed for the improvement of the lands of Rathdangan.

10*th April*, 1786.

" Mrs. Hamilton's estate of Rathdangan is mountainous, and in a very rude neglected state; in want of buildings, drains, and inclosures; on all these accounts it requires a numerous tenantry, for which it seems well calculated, from its abounding in good fuel, water, and being well situated for a manufacture, particularly the woollen one, the spinning branch of which is tolerably well understood.

According to my judgment, aided by the best information I could procure, it is in its present state not worth more than £250 yearly; nor do I think, that it would set for more than that sum, if so much, to one or two head-tenants; but I am assured, that the present tenants, if assisted for a few years, will pay with comfort what they have proposed, which is £317, will thrive, and raise the value of the estate. My scheme for the improvement is as follows. Buildings should be the first object; inclosures, which, if made with judgment, will

will serve as drains, the second; manuring with lime, the third. I would recommend, that Mrs. Hamilton should determine on places for houses of two sorts, proportioned to the different farms. I shall send, should she choose it, plans of such, which I think would answer; that on the tenants drawing the stones, clearing the foundation, and consenting to attend the mason, Mrs. H. should pay for the mason-work and lime, which would come to about six pounds the larger, and four pounds the smaller houses, by contract. I would propose, that six of these houses should be built in each year after the first, which would come to about thirty pounds; at the end of four years this expence would cease, as there would then be a house to nearly every thirty acres of land. I would apply the sum of ten pounds, yearly, to defray half the expence of inclosures, made in the situation and manner appointed by a person fixed on by Mrs. H.; this expence I think would also cease in four years. I should also propose ten pounds, yearly, in premiums for liming; this last expence, I should think, it might be prudent to continue.

Thus by being content to receive for four years a sum, which would exceed what any oppressive and rapacious land-jobber could pay, Mrs. H. would raise her rent-roll, considerably improve her estate,

diffuse an air of cultivation and plenty over a barren wild, promote a spirit of decency and order, and make the industrious peasant's heart sing for joy.

It is by no means my idea, that Mrs. H. should enter into any engagements relative to her bounties; she ought to have them entirely in her own power; and they will operate more powerfully, when she can make a difference between honesty and dishonesty, industry and sloth.

Though I should be happy to oblige Mrs. H., the offer I now make her, of taking it on myself to see, that her encouragements are not thrown away, is by no means complimentary, but selfish; my means of doing good are much confined: my avocations will often lead me into that neighbourhood, and I must be well repaid for any trouble I may have, by riding through a village instead of a waste, and in seeing happiness take place of misery. A. C.

Note by the editor.—This plan, so judiciously conceived by Mr. Conolly, and generously supported by Mrs. Hamilton, forms an excellent example for other proprietors to follow. Each occupier being accommodated with as much ground, secured by lease, as he is fully able to manage, is the surest mode of advancing the improvement of

of land, and the prosperity of the tenant, particularly when favoured by the attention and countenance of a benevolent proprietor." J. H.

What a treasure would such a benevolent clergyman be in the county of Clare? He would find ample means to bestow his wishes on a numerous part of the tenantry of this county, who are precisely in the same situation, under that scourge of Ireland, an unimproving, unfeeling middle-man.

List of rare Plants found in the county of Clare by Dr. Wade, and Mr. Mackay.

Sea reed, or sea matweed, Arundo arenaria. On the sandy beach on the sea coast of Burrin mountains. Cattle feed on it in winter; it is used for thatching houses, and will last for upwards of twenty years.

Squinancy-wort, or small woodrooff, Asperula cynanchica. Plentiful along the sand hills on the western coast, and very abundant on the limestone rocks near Corrofin, and in other parts of Clare.

Least mountain bedstraw, Galium pusillum. Abundant amongst the limestone rocks at Magherinraheen, near Corrofin.

Spring gentian, Gentiana verna. Plentiful on the estate of Bindon Blood, Esq. at Glaniny, near

the bay of Galway, on a limestone gravelly soil; also near Magherinraheen, between that and Kilmacduagh church, in the county of Galway.

Autumnal gentian, Gentiana amarella. Very plentiful on a limestone soil, between Gort and Corrofin, and in other places in the county of Clare.

Broad-leaved water parsnep, Sium latifolium. Plentiful on the side of the river Fergus, a little above the bridge at Ennis; also in ditches, near Corrofin.

Creeping water parsnep, Sium repens. In a marsh on the river Fergus, a little above the bridge at Ennis.

Flowering rush, Butomus umbellatus. In ditches near d'Esterre's bridge, seven miles from Limerick, on the road to Clare; and in ditches near Corrofin, in great abundance.

Red-berried trailing arbutus, Arbutus uva ursi. Plentiful on the limestone mountains in the barony of Burrin, along with Dryas octopetala.

Shrubby cinquefoil, Potentilla fruticosa. On low swampy ground, near the bottom of the Burrin mountains, the estate of Bindon Blood, Esq.; plentiful at Magherinraheen, near Corrofin. The ground it generally grows in is covered in winter with water, that gushes up from beneath, and then gets the name of Turloughs.

Mountain

Mountain avens, Dryas octopetala. This plant covers whole mountains of limestone on the estate of Bindon Blood, Esq. in the barony of Burrin, where there is scarcely any other vegetable to be seen. It has been observed before in that country.

White water-lily, Nymphæa alba. Common in the lake of Inchiquin, near Corrofin, and many other places.

Great spearwort, Ranunculus lingua. In a marsh by the side of the river Fergus, a little above the bridge of Ennis.

Nep, or cat mint, Nepeta cataria. On the road side, north of the Shannon, opposite to Limerick.

Hairy tower mustard, Turritis hirsuta. Plentiful on the rocks at Clifden.

Shining crane's-bill, Geranium lucidum. This plant covers many of the thatched houses in the town of Ennis, where it makes a very beautiful appearance.

Musk thistle, Carduus nutans. Found sparingly on the north road side, between Gort and Corrofin, in August, 1806.

Common frog bit, Hydrocharis morsus ranæ. In a marsh, by the side of the river Fergus, a little above the bridge of Ennis.

Alpine club moss, Lycopodium selaginoides.

In

In moist grounds, near Glaniny, bottom of Burrin mountains, in great abundance.

Marsh aspidium, or polypody, Aspidium thelypteris. In a marsh, near the river Fergus, a little above the bridge of Ennis.

Common spleenwort, Scolopendrium ceterach. On limestone rocks and walls, near Corrofin, and other places in the county of Clare, in great abundance.

Stinking iris, or Gladwyn, or roast beef plant, Iris fœtidissima. Ennis church-yard.

Cock's-foot panick grass. A few specimens of this very scarce grass were found by Dr. Wade, on the sand hills of Dough, near Lehinch.

Yellow loose strife, Lysimachia vulgaris. Upon the east bank of a lough, adjoining the lands of Drumkevan, near Ennis.

Great burnet saxifrage, Pimpinella magna. About the high road, Rosstrevor, Co. Clare.

Red whortle-berry, ~~or crow-berry~~, Vaccinium vitis Idæa. The rocky mountains of the county of Clare are covered with this very delicate evergreen.

Orpine, or live long, Sedum telephium. Covers the walls of an old fort, called Cahiromond, near Kilfenora.

Pennyroyal, Mentha pulegium. The church-yard of Ennis furnishes it in tolerable quantity.

Wood

Wood betony, Betonica officinalis. In the wood, by the river side, at Corronanagh.

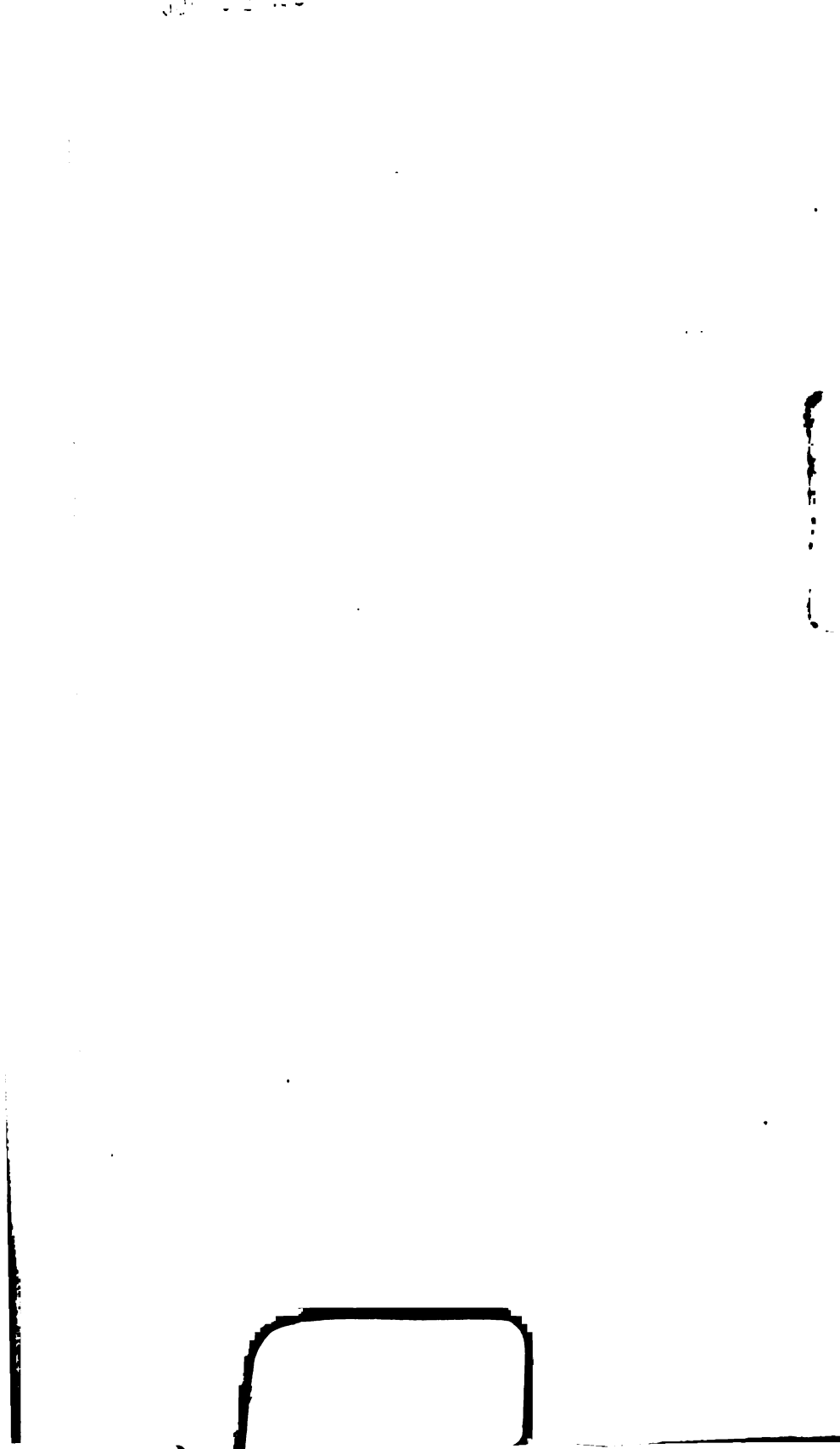
Daisy-leaved lady's-smock, Cardamine bellidifolia. This was found on the rocks about Finto.

Sea stock, Cheiranthus sinuatus. This fine scarce plant was found, at high-water mark, about the sand hills of Dough, but sparingly, flowering the latter end of August.

Marsh-mallow, Althæa officinalis. In prodigious plenty in all the salt marshes about the rivers Shannon and Fergus.

Mountain cudweed, Gnaphalium dioicum. Abundant on the Burrin mountains.

Yellow mountain pansy, Viola lutea. On the sand hills of Dough and Ballinguddy.

Lizard satyrium, or orchis, Satyrium hircinum. This very rare and tall orchis is to be met with in very shady situations, among shrubs, producing abundant flowers in the beginning of August, in the barony of Tullagh. The flowers are said to smell like a goat; hence, I suppose, the trivial name.

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